

them. Chief Pawawassin, after shaking hands with the agent and myself, according to their usual custom, said: "That three years after they gave up their rights to the country, he met me for the first time in Winnipeg, with a lawyer by my side; that I told him to tell me the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; that he always does so, and that he would state all that was given him to say in the council which they held. He would not go back far this time with his complaints, but would begin right there, and point out to me that the supplies lying on the banks of the Lake were eight sacks of flour, one barrel of pork, twenty-four pounds of tea thirty-seven pounds of twine, one hundred and eleven pounds of shot and thirty seven pounds of gunpowder less than they received last year. This discrepancy, I afterwards discovered was caused by the Indian Superintendent here, having inadvertently omitted to make any requisition for provisions, twine or ammunition for one of the North West Angle Bands of Indians. This chief stated further, that when he gave up his birthright, the Queen made him a chief; therefore he did not like to wear a red coat, a soldier's dress, but wanted to be clad in an officer's suit, for he was ashamed to appear before me in his present one. The clothing they received was of excellent quality excepting the trousers which were inferior. He wanted nothing but what was promised him. He was not blindfolded when the treaty was being made. He looked forward to the future and asked for a camping ground, which was granted him. His purpose in doing so was to prevent his children from getting "fire-water" when receiving their annuities. He had often told me that they were in want of hoes, axes and ploughs, but it was a waste of words, as none were sent them yet. He did not forget their half-breed children when making the treaty. He wanted those who did not receive any annuity to be granted their share of the lands, like their brothers in Red River, as had been promised them at the North West Angle two years ago. The country is being rapidly settled, and before long all the land will be taken up by the white man, and none will be left for the half-breed. He wanted a blank book, with suitable headings, properly ruled, to be given every band, in order that they might be able to keep a correct account of all the supplies received." Then Chiefs Conducumecowinnie Thinconducumecowininie, Ayashawash and Minwabouwaiskung spoke substantially as follows, and said: "That they received much good advice from the agent and myself, who repeatedly urged upon them the necessity of cultivating more extensively their reserves, if they wanted to better their condition; and of building school-houses in order that the Government might be able to send them teachers to educate their children, if they desired to get wisdom, but that it was very difficult for them to carry out our instructions, as their foolish young men would neither listen to their counsel, nor follow their example, but would rather spend their time in gambling and drinking whiskey; and that besides they had not enough of axes, grub-hoes, scythes, ploughs and other implements necessary for the performance of our requirements, as the greater part of those already received were broken and they had neither the means nor the skill to mend them. They were told to cultivate the soil, and forbidden to sell the products of the same, consequently their young men will not engage in farming." I informed them that these regulations were intended for their benefit, to prevent spendthrifts from disposing of their children's food and starving them, but those Indians who could show the agent that they had a surplus over and above what they required for the support of their families, he would give them permission to sell the same. The Islington school is the only one ever established in this agency, and it is closed, as already stated, for upwards of two years. The 11 different bands of this agency have 101 houses, 29 stables, 214 acres under cultivation, 9 ploughs, 10 harrows, 104 head of cattle, 299 bushels of corn, 5,820 bushels of potatoes, and 304 tons of hay. The number of Indians receiving annuities embraced within the limits of this agency in 1877 was 934, and the number paid this year was 940; an increase of 6 in 7 years. This however, does not show the actual increase of population, for a large number who had fraudulently been formerly receiving payments here, were, upon discovery of the same, struck off the pay-sheets.