

Many of the Indians are almost destitute of clothing, and owing to their small take of furs, are unable to provide themselves with the necessary clothing and hunting outfit for the coming winter.

The above scarcity has greatly decreased the number of their dogs, (so necessary to the Indian for travelling and hunting), which have perished, thus seriously increasing the difficulty of obtaining a livelihood.

The Beavers, who used to have a considerable number of horses, have killed so many of them, on account of the scarcity of other food, that they now possess very few.

5. At Lake Athabasca, and at some other lakes, a great failure of the fall and winter fisheries.

6. During the winter of '86 and '87, between the Peace and Athabasca Rivers, on account of starvation and consequent cannibalism, a party of twenty-nine Cree Indians was reduced to three !

In the McKenzie River district there were several cases of death by starvation, and one or more of cannibalism.

7. During the last winter, '87 and '88, amongst the Fort Chipewyan Indians between twenty and thirty starved to death, and the death of others was accelerated by want of food.

A party of about twenty Beavers had to be conveyed from Grande Prairie near Dunvegan, Peace River, to Lesser Slave Lake, to prevent their starving to death ; some of them died after arriving there.

Within the personal knowledge of the undersigned many other Indians—Crees, Beavers, and Chipeweyans—, at almost all points where there are missions or trading posts, would certainly have starved to death but for the help furnished by the traders and missionaries at those places,—furnished very often at great personal inconvenience.

8. Owing to the above facts recorded and previous mortality, a great number of widows and orphans are left without natural providers.

9. Owing to strong competition in the fur trade, and other causes, the Indians cannot now look to the Hudson Bay Co. for help as they used to do.

In fa
distan
portion
ment ha
enquiry
fully pr
ing spee

FOR

O God
beseech
wouldest
saving h

More c
try that
governed
they may
church, l
and in
Fatherly
into Thy
lieve ther
and temp
truth, an
only Med