

roads and in making bridges. At Sandy Bay double the quantity of potatoes formerly cultivated was planted.

*Ebb and Flow Lake Band.*

These Indians received twenty-six bushels of potatoes last spring, and they expected to have about 400 bushels of a yield in return. Last year they raised nothing, owing to the flooded state of the reserve, but the waters of the lakes have lowered from a foot and a-half to two feet last summer, hence their reserve is comparatively dry now. Their former dwellings and school house were destroyed by the encroachment of the waters from the lake, therefore they are now beginning to rebuild on a higher ridge further back from the lake. Their new school house was nearly enclosed and roofed, and they ask for assistance from the Department for its completion. They complained that their teacher, James Asham, does not advance their children in learning, owing to his not keeping the school open regular. The Chief Pénaisse died shortly after the payments, of inflammation. He bore his sufferings with unflinching fortitude. His natural intelligence and exemplary deportment will be long remembered by his people who honored with the waving of the "Union Jack" the place of his burial. Their clearings have overgrown with brush within the last couple of years, and consequently they have abandoned them, and commenced again in the woods. They are well satisfied now with their reserve, and are much pleased with Mr. Austin's survey of it. They will require a supply of wheat, barley, beans, corn, peas and garden seeds next year, on account of their failure to raise any crop for several years owing to the flooded state of their gardens. If properly secured they will have an abundance of potatoes for planting. They ask an ox in lieu of some of the ploughs and harrows still due them. Widow of Kahnecohpetung complains that having been absent during the payments last year on a visit to her parents at Riding Mountain, the Agent refused to pay her annuity to her husband who had taken to himself another wife during her absence. This Indian, however, died before payment this year, and she received the annuities of herself and children for the current year, but was refused arrears for last year. She was married for thirteen years.

*Lake Manitoba Band.*

Of the forty families belonging to this band of Indians, twenty-four have dwelling houses and clearings at the following localities, viz: Seven at Dog Creek, thirteen on the reserve, and four at Swan Creek. On account of their gardens having been flooded for several years in succession from the rising of the lake, eleven of the thirteen mentioned abandoned the reserve, and the other two are not raising any crops on it. I made a personal examination of the Reserve and its vicinity, to ascertain if there was sufficient land adapted for cultivation available for the requirements of the band. I found numerous marshy indentations extending from the lake inland for miles with ridges of various widths and different elevations above the level of the lake intervening. For a couple of miles in a northerly and southerly direction from Dog Creek there is some excellent land for farming. In the northern part of the reserve there is also a quantity of good farming land, but towards the southern extremity of it the land becomes lower and more swampy. The clearings formerly cultivated by the Indians were mainly along the margin of the lake, and it was pitiable to observe weeds and rushes growing luxuriantly where their gardens had been, but further back into the woods the land is higher. The water, however, is receding owing to the lowering of the lake. The land at Swan Creek is chiefly prairie with a scattering of oak and poplar. The place where the Indians have settled is in rear of a deep mossy bay. Sooner than go to Dog Creek they say that they will leave the band, and the Dog Creek Indians are equally opposed to remove to Swan Creek. Those living at the former place are thorough Indians, whereas those living at the latter place are principally half-breeds from Oak Point, hence they had no more dealings with each other than the Jews had with the