

did anything of the kind; and I hope that it was a misunderstanding on the part of Williams. I shall have to make a fresh sub-division of the land before next spring. Besides a second chief, I also appointed constables, giving them instructions as to their duties in preserving order in the village. This village has been at the mercy of a number of persons, who were in the habit of prowling around at night with liquor, for purposes needless to mention. The addition to section 90, Indian Act of 1884—which I have circulated in the agency—will greatly check all such doings in future.

I have had the first case to try, of supplying liquor to Indians, resulting in conviction and four months' imprisonment.

I visited this tribe a second time, 19th December, remaining five days; and again the 28th December, remaining until 8th January.

On this last visit I was accompanied by the Government constable, having to try seven whiskey cases. Of these, four resulted in acquittal and three in conviction, with a penalty of \$50 and costs in each case. I have found no difficulty in obtaining information against whiskey givers, nor in obtaining proof by the Indians themselves who had been supplied. Only one reserve is an exception to this rule, namely, Alexandria.

Here, as in almost every reserve in my agency, a general wish was expressed that Indians, who were legally married by the priests, should be compelled, by force, if necessary, to live with their wives, and wives with their husbands; and that severe punishment should be inflicted on those who disobey this law. In some reserves, particularly in this one, there are Indians who have deserted their wives, and are living with other women, and *vice versa*, married Indian women with other men. The chiefs all agree that this evil can only be checked by the most severe punishment, and are most anxious that I should mention the subject for your consideration.

From drunkenness and conjugal infidelity, to disease and misery, is but a step—yet, a certain one—and this tribe is not an exception to the rule. Consumption in all its stages, bleeding at the lungs, chronic rheumatism and scrofulous affections, have each its victim in almost every family. A large amount of medicine has, consequently, been required for this reserve.

The farming land consists of about ninety acres, and the number of Indians—men, women and children—one hundred and forty-four. And this is far over an average of the quantity of the agricultural land belonging to the other reserves in this agency.

There is, however, a large extent of hay meadow, producing more hay than the tribe require. The surplus is sold by them, thus helping to supply money for necessities. Some of the tribe still engage in trapping during the fall and spring beaver season, and those who are lucky—for there is as much luck in trapping as in gold mining—are thus enabled to add considerably to their means of support.

#### *Soda Creek Reserve.*

I arrived here 14th November, remaining until the 19th. The tribe numbers seventy-nine. The chief, Cumusells, is one of the few remaining "old time" chiefs—feared and obeyed by his tribe, and a mortal enemy to all drunkenness and immorality of any kind. Before he became too old, he used, sometimes, to execute his sentences with his own hand.

This village, like Williams' Lake, has often been at the mercy of unprincipled whites, prowling about after night with whiskey; and the chief was eloquent in his expressions of delight at the stop put to such proceedings at the latter reserve.

The fact is, that so many of the few cases of liquor supplying to Indians which have been tried, have resulted in acquittals, that the Indians had come to the conclusion that the law against such acts was a farce.

At the request of Camusells—on account of his age—a second chief, Jim Trap, was chosen to assist him. Constables were also appointed and a police system organized for securing law and order in the village.