

*Victoria.*

Mr. John A. Mitchell has been in charge of the stores and supplies of this portion of the Edmonton district for more than a year. I audited his books and accounts, took an inventory of the goods in store, and examined into their condition and quality. Mr. Mitchell has been conducting his work with much regularity, but it is my opinion that if in future the supplies are landed from the steamers at Snake Hills, this storehouse and office may be done away with.

*Wabsetanow Indians.*

These Indians are settled on a creek of the same name sixty miles west of Saddle Lake and twenty-two miles from Victoria. Mus-keg-a-wa-tick is the headman and they are a portion of the Little Hunter Band. I was much pleased upon my arrival at their location to find that they had taken a new departure since my visit of last year, having built several new houses, fenced in large fields and broken new land. They appeared enthusiastic in their work and were anxious to do more. They require more oxen and tools and ask for a grindstone and tool chest, most of the tools given to the band under treaty having been taken to Saddle Lake.

*Edmonton District.*

I first visited the Instructor's farm at Peace Hills and the reserves in that vicinity. The Indian Agent Mr. Anderson was engaged in making the annual payments, and I could not avail myself of his assistance. A large crop of grain had been raised upon the home farm, the season which was a dry one being favourable for the crops on low lying lands. Under instructions from the Department this farm will not be worked another year, which will allow the instructor and his assistant to devote their whole time to the Indians. I examined the books, the detail of issues, and the returns. The receipts agreed nearly with the quantities charged in the books of the Indian office. I also took an inventory of the stock, provisions, implements, &c., that were on hand.

*Bobtail Reserve.*

This is a small band, but the chief who is an intelligent man has much influence in council with other chiefs. At present their farming is rather limited. They claim that there is still owing to them under Treaty a cow and a bull. They had unusually bad luck with those animals already given to them, one cow having died while calving, another died from being gored, and an ox fell into a cellar and was killed.

*Ermine Skin's Band,*

Has made very fair progress in farming having had about thirty-five acres under crop, the grain from which promises a fair yield, they also had an abundance of potatoes. The chief asked for a mower and some carts.

*Samson's Band.*

Had nearly sixty acres in crop, thirteen of which were potatoes. They also put up over fifty tons of hay.

Now that it has been determined not to work the home farm in conjunction with the reserves the instructor and his assistant will have a better opportunity of attending to the Indians, and it would be advisable to have them living on the reserves so that they would be continually with the Indians directing their work. The Indians complained that they did not receive sufficient provisions to enable them to work steadily, and that they required more clothing.