

his instructions, to proceed with his line and to assume that it is correct, thus involving that very liability to error against which the rule was intended to guard. As the subdivision of a township is confined to a distance each way of six miles, and its character is, by the previously made block survey, to a great extent known, the contract system can be successfully applied to subdivision surveys.

"It would be exceedingly desirable in connection with the next season's surveys to ensure that the surveyors should not in any way be hindered by the Indians. More than one party was seriously delayed by their interference last year. These poor savages are easily worked upon by their civilized neighbours the Half Breeds, to some of whom it is a thoughtless amusement to witness the effect of their idle stories as to the object and consequences of surveyors' lines. Filled with the idea that where a line passes though their reserve their stipulated rights in it are about to be set aside and the reserve thrown open to white settlement, the Indians naturally remonstrate with the first surveyor who plants a picket on their lands, their form and manner of doing so depending much on circumstances. Besides possibility of collision, the effect of this on the Indian is in every case bad. When their numbers are such that their remonstrance is disregarded they go away with a feeling of injustice done them. When the surveyor has to give way to them, they are encouraged in the demoralizing idea that they have the law in their own hands and can act as they please—a very serious matter in an Indian frontier country, its evil effects spreading by hearsay far beyond the circle of the individuals concerned. This it might be possible to prevent in either of the following manners :—

"The proper agents of the Government could see the Indians belonging to the localities to be surveyed, and explain to them fully and clearly that the laying out in Townships did not in the least affect their rights ; on the contrary afforded the means of defining their reserves, and specifying those sections on which whites would not be allowed to intrude. Or special survey of their reserves could be made (in advance of the regular survey) and its meaning and object well explained to the Indians."

DESCRIPTIVE EXTRACTS FROM SURVEYORS REPORTS.

RANGES EAST OF PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN.

FIRST RANGE EAST OF PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN.

Township No. 2.—Has a very good soil, and is well adapted for farming purposes.

There is no running water in the township, but many parts of the north-western sections are low and marshy during the spring months. No timber is available nearer than the Red River, which is five or six miles distant from the centre of the township.

Township No. 3.—The soil all over this township is first class. It is of the very best kind for the production of all kinds of grain.

In this township there is no timber fit for building or other purposes ; plentiful supply of good water can readily be found.

Township No. 4.—The soil throughout this township is of the very best quality, and can favorably compare with the finest in the Province. There is, however, no timber which can be utilized.

Good water can be found in several places.

Township No. 5.—Is high dry land with a very rich soil. It is open prairie, with the exception of one poplar grove, in section No. 33, three fourths of a mile long by one fourth broad, and a few small patches of willows. The Scratching River runs in a south eastern direction through the township.

Township No. 6.—The soil of this township cannot be surpassed for richness. Its surface is beautifully diversified with dry prairie, suitable for cultivation, and moist prairie, producing a heavy growth of wild grass.