

GENERAL REMARKS.

In concluding my report, I am happy so state that general satisfaction seemed to prevail in my district.

The Indians were thankful for the chest of medicine supplied them last year by the Government, and none but ordinary ailments were complained of.

The average of crops is better than in past years, the fishing and hunting also surpassing the results of past seasons.

I notified the different bands that they were not to expect any more seed potatoes, as they were supposed to keep enough for their future wants. They understand this very well; but on a couple of reserves, where bands are showing more enterprise, they complained of the uselessness of growing wheat, barley and oats, without having sickles, and especially a grist mill, asking me at the same time to call the attention of the Government to the fact.

The provisions were delivered without delay when the payments were made and they appeared to be satisfactory, as no complaints were uttered.

During the meeting at Duck Bay, a deputation of Indians formerly from the Swan River Reserve, Treaty No. 4, were introduced, and asked if any answer had been received to their request as stated in my last Report, to have a reserve in the vicinity of Shoal River, so as to include the settlement held by them before the transfer.

In closing my Report, I feel justified in referring to the very efficient assistant which the Department sent out with me this year. His thorough knowledge of both languages, and competency as an accountant were of great assistance to me.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

H. MARTINEAU,
Indian Agent.

INDIAN OFFICE,

BIRTLE AGENCY, TREATY NO. 2,
MANITOBA, 30th June, 1883.

The Right Honorable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to report that during the season of 1882 and 1883, most of the bands in my district have made great advancement.

Cotés Band at Fort Pelly have sown more seed than usual, and have done all their work without any white supervision, and with very little assistance from the Government. Their cattle have wintered well and are increasing very rapidly; the band are in possession of a number of private cattle.

Kee-see-kons's Band have also made a great advance, and have put in a large crop for themselves without assistance and received very little provision when working. All their cattle are in good order and their houses are well built and very clean.

Only twelve families have yet joined the Key at their proposed new reserve. These have done fairly well, have neat houses and small fields, but being totally ignorant of farming and unable to plough, advance slowly. I have engaged a competent half-breed to instruct them in ploughing for two months, and expect good results. This band are receiving considerable assistance which I hope to greatly reduce after harvest. I have lent this band cattle. They appear very anxious to improve.

All these bands have done remarkably well without an Instructor, and the immense expense at the Government Farm has been done away with, and the bands have certainly not retrograded.

A school is working well at Cotés and one is about to be started at Kee-see-Kons's.