

Owing to the difficulties attendant upon one agent superintending so many bands and reserves as were embraced in the Indian Head Agency, the farm instructor at File Hills was appointed acting agent for the bands and reserves at that point, and the late agency clerk at Indian Head was appointed to a similar position at Touchwood Hills, and Mr. Lash, who was Indian agent at Carlton when the rebellion broke out, and was made a prisoner by the rebels, was removed to the Qu'Appelle Lake, and was entrusted with the supervision of the bands and reserves of the locality.

The farming instructor of the bands near Indian Head has been made acting agent for the bands and reserves of that locality; while the bands and reserves at Crooked Lakes have been included in a separate agency, under the control of the Indian agent formerly stationed at Indian Head, who, for the present, also exercises a general supervision over the several acting agents above mentioned.

The reserves occupied by the numerous bands of Indians in these agencies being situated nearer to the scene of the insurrection and in the direct line of communication between the north and south, messages from the insurgents were naturally more frequent and urgent than those sent the more remote bands. And while, on the one hand, the reports of any slight temporary advantage gained by the insurgents were exaggerated, on the other hand the Indians were warned by these messengers that should the troops be successful in defeating the rebels, they would attack them on their return, whether they had taken part in the insurrection or not. The minds of the Indians of these parts were consequently greatly disturbed, and a few individual members of some of the bands listened to and were influenced by these false messages to such a degree that some of them went north and took part with the rebels, and others plundered the houses of several white settlers, and killed a few cattle. For these outrages several of the guilty parties are serving terms of imprisonment in the Manitoba penitentiary, and others, who, though less implicated, were aiding and abetting in the crimes, have been committed to gaol for a more limited term.

The Indians, generally, however, followed the advice given them by the officers of this Department, who kept constantly moving among them and counselling them to remain quietly on their reserves. The Indian Commissioner for Manitoba and the North-West Territories also repeatedly visited them, as he did the Indians at other points. Thus, the evil influences brought to bear by the messages of the insurgents on the Indians of these agencies were, for the most part, nullified.

A despatch was received from Chief Piapot, whose band is the most numerous in the above agencies, expressive of the loyalty and attachment of himself and his followers to Her Majesty. A similar despatch, expressing, also, disapproval of the course pursued by the leaders of the rebellion, was received from the several chiefs