

mixture is made which is called beer, it is said to be composed of hops, yeast cake, sugar, flour, tobacco and spirituous extracts. I could hear of no liquor along the Peace River, except at the settlement at Grand Prairie referred to in my report. This place as already stated I was unable to visit and, therefore, can only report on what I hear say. One Rivet is said to be the principal offender. At Lesser Slave Lake from the reports of the Rev. Mr. White and others there is a large consumption of liquor, making for the greater part of the winter as stated to me "one big drunk," and rendering the nights hideous. I there saw a large number of extract of ginger bottles (empty) said to have been brought in and traded by one La Riviere, a wealthy free trader, who has been for many years in the North-west Territory and the United States, where he was reported in trouble for whisky trading with Indians. Permits are said to be fraudulently obtained by traders and others in the name of the boatmen and employees who are in a great measure paid for their summer's work in liquor. The liquor smuggled to Lesser Slave Lake is said to be carried in by the old and now seldom travelled trail via Jasper Pass, Lac La Nonne and old Fort Assiniboine.

## SETTING OUT POISON.

There has been in many locations on the Lower Athabasca and Great Slave Lake country, as well as the upper districts of the Peace River, a general use of poisoned bait, many of those using it not being aware of the law. Some damage has been done, principally by the destruction of Indian hunting dogs, which are valuable to their owners, and also a great loss of fur takes place by poisoned animals wandering off when poisoned, and are either consumed by other animals, or covered in snow drifts, and are also dangerous to hungry Indians who may discover and eat the poisoned carcasses.

Indians complained bitterly of the use of this poison put out by white men and half-breed trappers with whom they are unable to compete, and think it hard that people who are not owners of the country are allowed to rob them of their living. I notified all I could by word of mouth, and sent printed notices to many others relating to the ordinances. I tried and fined a number for breaking the law, and trust that these lessons may for a time prevent further infringement thereof. Time has been allowed for the payment of these fines, which when due should be enforced, otherwise the trouble and expense of the expedition will have been encountered uselessly, and will be a bad precedent for further action in that country.

## BUSH FIRES.

Travellers of all kinds, including missionaries of all denominations, traders and Hudson's Bay Company's servants are most careless. They camp along river banks and leave fires burning, which frequently spread and destroy timber for miles. Enormous damage has been done, and on the Upper Peace River these vast fires have driven off the game and consequently impoverished many of the Indians. I imposed fines on several persons who had neglected to comply with the provisions of the fire ordinance. I found that the Indians are not entirely innocent of this law breaking, as they are known to burn off moose ranges and consequently large tracts of country.

## FISHERIES.

Nearly all the small lakes are stocked with fish, but in some an insect cuts the nets in a very short space of time and renders fishing impossible.

There are large fisheries at Lake Athabasca, Great and Lesser Slave Lakes, and on Great Slave River. Whitefish and lake trout of a very fine quality are taken, together with pike, pickerel and suckers, and on Great Slave River the *L. Inconnu* or unknown fish, as mentioned in my report; this fish can be eaten by Indians and possibly by whitemen after being educated to their flavour, both in taste and smell.