

THE AGENCY AT EMERSON.

In consequence of Mr. Agent Newcomb's resignation, Mr. Acting Superintendent Graham was entrusted with the payment of the Rosseau River Indians. Several applied for annuities on behalf of absentees; but were refused, on account of information received from the chief and councillors that those parties were residents of the United States, and merely came to Canada to receive presents and annuities with their relations. This reserve is very fertile, and, if properly husbanded, would produce abundance of food for the sustenance of man and beast, but I regretted to notice that so few houses and gardens had been made within the past year. The teacher, Mr. McPherson, abandoned the school for the present, owing to the irregular attendance of pupils.

THE AGENCY OF MR. MARTINEAU.

I found, upon inspecting this agency, that the vouchers, for distributions of provisions and implements, corresponded with the accounts of this office, that the balance of supplies was safely stored, and that the general business of the agency was transacted apparently satisfactorily this year. Last spring, the Riding Mountain Indians were transferred from this agency to that of Captain Herchmer. In May, 1879, an epidemic, believed to be measles, prevailed so generally among them, that they were unable to plant their gardens in time to mature, hence, in the following December, their scanty supplies becoming exhausted, they were driven by the cravings of hunger to such an extremity as to greedily devour carcasses of diseased cattle, and were it not for the liberality of private individuals, and the generosity of the Department, a number of them would have certainly perished from starvation before the winter was over. No regular school has been started here yet, but Mrs. Flatt, the Presbyterian Missionary's wife, has been teaching without any remuneration, at intervals, as opportunity presented itself, for a number of years, and succeeded in teaching twenty Indian children to read in English and Cree. They intend to build a school-house as soon as possible, and want the Government to furnish them a teacher whenever it is completed. They ask for another flag, as the one received was worthless. The Lake Manitoba Indians wish the limits of their reserve to be extended a couple of miles in a northerly direction, so as to include land suitable for farming; a similar quantity to be deducted from the southern end of the reserve, where it is mostly covered with water. The Ebb-and-Flow Lake Indians desire their reserve to be extended about a mile in a southerly direction, to include some prairie lands required for farming and meadows, an equal quantity to be taken from the northern end of reserve. This differs somewhat from their previous request, but the flooding of the water, this season, from the lake, accounts for the change. The whole reserve was nearly covered with water when I visited it in October. The school was temporarily closed during the fall, until the Indians would return from their fishing. The teacher, Mr. Asham, has been engaged here for a number of years. He complains of the indolence and indifference of the band in cultivating their lands, or educating their children. The Fairford Indians are very intelligent and enterprising, and have accumulated considerable property. Their progress in agricultural pursuits is very marked, especially along the river towards its mouth. They ask for the hay lands on the old mission ground across the river, but I consider it undesirable to accede to their request, as they have ample river frontage already. They also ask for more implements to enable them to cultivate their gardens to advantage.

The school, conducted by Mr. Anderson, is in a prosperous condition, and deserving of encouragement.

Baptiste LeClair, formerly a member of the Fairford Band, but now living at St. Peters, received payment in 1879 for a family of eight persons in both places, but,