

were the names and history of "other persons" given in the marginal remarks, his pay-sheets would be as nearly perfect as any which ever came under my notice, but his tabular statement, although an improvement on previous ones, is still incomplete, having seven columns blank in it.

Islington.

The agent informed me that payments were made to the Indians of this reserve on the 10th of July, and that 20 gallons of whiskey were taken there from Rat Portage for the purposes of traffic, but that the chief, David Loud, prevented it by publicly announcing that if any person attempted to deal out intoxicating liquors to his people, he would use all the authority he possessed to prosecute the offender. He then addressed his band in impassioned eloquence and admonished them not to indulge in the deadly poison. He strongly impressed upon them the necessity of procuring food, clothing and agricultural implements with their annuities. The effect of this speech upon the Indians was so magical that no whiskey monger dared to offer any liquor for sale. The agent also informed me that fewer potatoes were planted this year than formerly, but that more barley and wheat were sown than usual. He said that they planted no corn on account of their not having seed, and complained that although he forwarded regularly, every year, requisitions for seed corn, he never received any. This band has seventeen houses, six stables and twenty-three head of cattle. Their school has been closed since Mr. Richardson abandoned it, in August 1881, and they expressed an earnest desire to have it re-opened at the very earliest possible date. They want some grub-hoes and a few breaking ploughs supplied them.

Rat Portage.

This band received their annuity on the 13th of July, at No. 38 B. of their reserve. The Agent complained to me that although two constables, one representing the Ontario and the other the Dominion Government, had been present during the payments, no assistance had been rendered him in arresting offenders, against whom the most definite information had been laid, of their dealing out openly intoxicating liquors to the Indians, and that, consequently, the disgraceful scenes of drunkenness and dissipation which occurred the following night beggared description. Men, women and even children were intoxicated. Women fled from their wigwams and came to the Agent's tent, crying piteously for protection from the indecent assaults of abandoned vagabonds from Rat Portage, who intruded themselves into the privacy of their lodgings. I notice in remarks on the pay-sheets that Songabe's wife, from the Rosseau River Band, who married Sheepaquan, did not receive her annuity, although her infant daughter was paid, and that Songabe's wife, of Fort Alexander, married to Mookeicabow, did not receive her annuity, contrary to my understanding of the 13th section of the Indian Act, wherein it is stated that any Indian woman marrying an Indian of any other band, shall cease to be a member of the band to which she formerly belonged, and become a member of the band of which her husband is a member. If it be claimed that these cases come under section 83 of the Indian Act, then the Agent should have submitted them to the arbitrament of the Superintendent-General, and not have taken the responsibility of withholding their annuities from them without the necessary authority. I arrived at the Indian camping ground, near the Agency, on the 17th July, and remained there during the continuance of the payments to the Indians of the Lake of the Woods, which occupied four days. An attempt was also made here by unscrupulous traders, from Rat Portage, to deluge the place with intoxicating liquors, but through the commendable exertions of Stipendiary Magistrate Lyons and two constables, their nefarious purposes were frustrated. One man was fined \$50 and costs for selling a bottle of whisky to an Indian, and another was tried for a similar offence, but was acquitted for want of sufficient evidence for his conviction. At an interview with the chiefs, councillors, and Indians of the different bands assembled, I stated to them the object of my visit, and requested them to lay whatever grievances, if any, they had before me and I would investigate.