

MEMORIAL
TO THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

ST. LUKE'S MISSION,

Vermilion,

Athabasca, N. W. T.

JULY, 6TH, 1888.

The Right Honorable

The Minister of the Interior,

SIR,—We, the undersigned, as members of the Synod of the Anglican Church in Athabasca diocese, now in session, venture to lay before you for your consideration the present condition of the Indians generally, throughout this portion of the North West Territories, including the Provincial district of Athabasca.

There is a great decrease, throughout this part of the country, of both the larger and smaller game, as well as fur-bearing animals, (excepting one or two kinds, such as martens and fishers, which are not used as food.) The consequence is the Indians, not only during the winter, but also in summer, are in an almost constant state of semi-starvation. This condition is, of course, seriously aggravated during the winter months, and you will perceive from the following facts which we beg to lay before you, the very serious results which arise therefrom :—

1. The almost total disappearance of rabbits, and great scarcity of partridges.
2. A great mortality amongst the beaver during last winter.
3. Present scarcity of lynx which will, in all probability, continue at least two years longer, as they are affected by the rise and fall of rabbits.
4. The above affects not only the food supply of the Indians but also their power of procuring clothing, ammunition, etc.