

WATER HEN RIVER.

This band is getting more numerous each year. They are coming on the reserve and intend working for themselves; the soil being rather poor, none being good, with the exception of that on ridges and timbered land, they are obliged to work hard in order to have the smallest garden, but they are, nevertheless, willing to work, and each year their improvements are noticeable. They are building a school-house; when completed they expect to have a teacher, and are gathering closer to each other, in order to be nearer to the school, so their children will thus be benefitted. As compared with the other reserves, this one is the poorest, fish being very scarce, and there being hardly any fur; but they hope that by perseverance in farming to overcome all difficulties in the future.

FAIRFORD.

This reserve is progressing more favorably, and it is really interesting to visit some of their farms, and, judging by the appearance of their crops in July, they will certainly have a good harvest, which looks cheerful for the coming winter. The chief, in the name of his band, thanked the Government last winter for the seed grain they had received in previous years, and stated that now, through the aid of the Government, they were enabled to save enough seed for their own use yearly. The school is kept regularly, with satisfactory results.

LAKE ST. MARTIN.

This band have in past years shown but very little progress, and I was glad to find, in my last meeting with them, that they are now anxious for improvement. They have gathered on a spot on the reserve, and are going to build a school-house. The school is progressing very favorably under the new teacher.

LITTLE SASKATCHEWAN.

This reserve has not yet been surveyed, causing great disputes among the band about the most suitable site for their reserve. Owing to high water the river rose and almost completely flooded the surrounding country, so much that they had a very few acres of dry ground. However, they had pretty good gardens considering the state of affairs. Most of the potato crops were drowned last year. When their reserve is allotted to them they propose building a school-house. At present, however, school is making good progress.

DUCK BAY.

This band, though forming part of Treaty No. 4, was this year transferred to this district for payment, owing to the difficulty of reaching the reserve by land by the Agent of Treaty No. 4, and it being so much easier got at by water, from this quarter.

This reserve is surrounded by swamps and marshes; consequently, there are but a few acres under cultivation, and most of the members have good houses. The fur is more plentiful in that part of the country, and, together with the fish, the Indians anticipate passing a good winter.

The health of the tribes in this agency is, as a rule, very good, but they all expressed to me their desire to have a physician visit them during the coming winter, as there are, on each reserve, members suffering from diseases of rather long standing.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H. MARTINEAU,

Indian Agent.