

I commenced the payment of annuities on the 15th of September last, and finished on the 17th October. I am glad to report that most of the bands were paid at the Agency farms, the rest were paid on their reserves, thus doing away with the usual annual meetings of nearly all the Indians at one point, and thereby saving a large annual expenditure during the two weeks it generally took to pay them off.

Another great advantage to the Indians last year, was, that the payments were made later in the season than usual, thus causing them to spend their money in the purchase of blankets and warm clothing.

Dr. Edwards, medical officer of Treaty No. 4, accompanied me throughout the payments, examining the Indians as to their general health, and vaccinating those who required it.

The Doctor's Report was forwarded with my reports on the payments.

By instructions from the Honorable the Indian Commissioner, I left Fort Qu'Appelle on the 28th October for Fort Walsh, *via* the Canada Pacific Railroad, to conduct the payment of annuities at that place also, arriving there on the 1st November.

I cannot write in too flattering terms of the manner in which I was pushed through by the Superintendent of the Division, and the contractors of the road.

I commenced the payments on the 8th of November finishing on the 14th with a part of Big Bear's Band. After great persuasion I finally succeeded in getting this chief to sign his adhesion to Treaty No. 6.

I am pleased to be able to report favorably on the conduct of the Indians here assembled, although they have heretofore been considered rather troublesome. I called upon the chiefs to detail their head men to keep order in the pay-rooms, and to report any irregularities. They discharged their duties very creditably, I was ably assisted in the payments by Inspector Norman, an officer who, I consider, understands the manner in which Indians should be treated.

I may here state that during these payments, the rations which were being issued previous to my arrival at Fort Walsh were not increased. The only presents given were two boxes of fixed ammunition, which were distributed to the several bands assembled, and a suit of clothes were given to Big Bear.

After settling matters connected with these payments, I left Fort Walsh on the 16th December, reaching Fort Qu'Appelle on the 20th.

Owing to an exceptionally long and cold winter, and to the fact that a large portion of the potato crop on the reserves was frozen by the early setting in of the winter, the expenditure in provisions (as will be seen by Mr. Inspector Wadsworth's Report) appears large, but taking into consideration that 2,249 Indians had to be provided for during the twelve months (not including the Assiniboines and Pie-a-pot's band while here) the quantity consumed was not excessive.

The reserves are distributed throughout my district in groups; with the exception of two, they are as follows:—

	Reserves.
Crooked Lakes.....	4
Qu'Appelle.....	3
File Hills.....	4
Touchwood Hills.....	4
Indian Head.....	3
Nut Lake.....	1
Fishing Lake.....	1
Total	20

The Crooked Lake Reserves are under the supervision of Mr. Instructor Setter, the Chiefs being Little Child, Kah-kee-she-way and Kah-kee-wi-to-haw. The other band has no chief. It has been named Sah-ka.ma's from the Indian who first formed the band; he and the others objected to having a chief. They have a spokesman, Yellow Calf, with whom band matters are arranged in my office.