

upwards of a hundred years by their forefathers. This oil is also used for making lights in their wigwams and houses. It is only within the last ten years that they commenced to make fish oil for traffic, and that only in limited quantities, until last year, when about one thousand gallons were manufactured, and sold to traders, beside another thousand for their own use. They say that only the heads and offal were used this year. The white fish begin to enter the Little Saskatchewan River about the middle of August, and continue to ascend it until the 1st of November. It is, therefore, necessary to prohibit not only Indians, but all others from fishing on this river and in the vicinity of its mouth during this period, inasmuch as they remain in these favorite localities until about the middle of October, and can be caught in thousands daily by scoop nets, before they begin to ascend to their spawning places on the upper lakes and rivers. It is apparent that stringent laws must be enacted and enforced for their protection, as the supply in Lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis is becoming rapidly exhausted.

David Marsden complained that the Agent did not represent the facts of the case relative to the killing of the cow two years ago, correctly to the Government, and made the following statement to me: After the payments in 1880 to the Lake St. Martin Band of Indians, owing to the excessive heat of the weather, the fish abandoned the river and sought shelter in the cooler depths of the lake; consequently they were unable to catch and were very hungry. He finally proposed to Summer, one of the other councillors, that they kill the cow. To this the latter agreed, and after obtaining the approval of the band, they both went to Meessee-waykahpow, who had the cow in his possession, and proposed that if he allowed them to kill her they would purchase him another animal. This was agreed to, and they then went to the chief and he sanctioned their proposals. Before the animal was killed, however, Marsden received a supply of bacon from Fairford, and retired to his tent, taking no further steps in the matter, and all he knows about the killing of the cow is that he received a piece of beef that night. He is indifferent to his dismissal from the councillorship, but he complains of being held responsible for the payment of the cow, when other members of the band were equally implicated in this affair. Besides, he objects to the retention of his children's annuities for his actions.

There is no school house on Lake St. Martin's Reserve, but Francis Storr taught in an Indian house until the middle of March last, when he closed the school, on account of the Indians having gone to their hunting grounds and taken their children with them. He intended to resume teaching on the 1st of October. Mr. Storr is a very honest and faithful teacher, but his education is very limited. He complained that he had not received payment for the quarter ended March 31st, 1880, although he forwarded his return to the agent at the close of the term, the average attendance being twenty-one. Benjamin Thom taught at intervals last winter and summer, in an Indian house at Sandy Bay. Complaint was made here also of not receiving salary promptly. Mr. Thom is an honest Indian but like the previous teacher his qualifications are most deficient. There are two schools in operation at Fairford. The one taught by Wm. Anderson, at the lower end of the reserve, was closed in March last, owing to the flooded condition of that portion of the reserve, as well as to the absence of the greater number of the children at the hunting grounds. He intended to resume teaching on the 1st of October, when the Indians would have returned to the reserve. He is an excellent teacher, having had long experience and been very successful in conducting Indian schools. He complains that he did not receive payment for the quarter ended 31st December, 1878, although he forwarded his return showing an average daily attendance of 26 pupils, to the Agent in January following. The school at the Episcopal Mission, taught by Miss Murray, was also closed for similar causes during my visit, but I was informed that it was going to be re-opened as soon as the Indians returned. A large amount of sickness such as measles, whooping cough, &c., prevailed throughout the district, but it was not accompanied with much fatality. They had a greater quantity of land under corn and potatoes than usual. A great deal of enterprise was displayed on the Fairford Reserve in cutting