

INDIAN OFFICE,  
QU'APPELLE, NORTH-WEST TERRITORY,  
9th May, 1882.

The Right Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to report that on my tour of inspection I took along with me Constable Stuart attached to the North-West Mounted Police Hospital here, and availed myself of his services to get the Indians vaccinated. At Touchwood Hills there were 146 vaccinated, at Qu'Appelle Lakes 85, and at Crooked Lake 61. About two-thirds of these have taken successfully.

I was very much pleased with the condition of the Indians on the reserve under Mr. McConnell. I heard of no complaints. Ka-wa-ka-ton's Indians had built and were building several good houses. A large quantity of house logs and fence rails had been got out ready to be put in use. They intend fencing in a large hay meadow near where the trail crosses the reserve to guard their hay from the depredations of stock of the frequent trains of freighters, &c. I was agreeably struck with the interest they exhibited in protecting their own. They have all had a good lesson in the matter of hay during this past long winter. While I was at the reserve, a Council was held when Ka-wa-ka-ton's resigned as chief through his old age, and his son Ta-we-ke-se-swape unanimously elected in his place. I have reported on this matter under another cover. I think that the choice of successor is a good one. From Ka-wa-ka-ton's I went to "Day Star," where I found everything satisfactory. Plenty and contentment were visible on all sides. He had still a large quantity of turnips, potatoes and wheat on hand. I purchased from him and his band about 75 bushels of potatoes and 15 bushels of wheat. With the money for the wheat the chief bought clothing and a young horse. The cattle here were in excellent condition fit for beef. They were all anxious for spring to come so that they might commence work on their reserve. They promise to do great things this year. I regret to say that I found a great difference between these last Indians and George Gordon's, which band I next visited. Here the Indians do not seem to have gone anyway ahead. The cause of this I cannot explain, as they have received the same assistance and relief as the others, in fact more. Indeed, from the chief downwards, they all seem improvident and worthless Indians. But I do not yet despair. They will get another fair trial this year. Their houses I found in poor condition and unfortunately off their reserve. I have, therefore, to request that their reserve be extended west and north far enough to embrace the houses. I have, however, led them to understand that should the Department not accede to this request they must be prepared to move on to within the limits of the reserve. I then visited Mus-cow-equin's Reserve. Here very few of his Indians are yet settled, the greater part of them being still on the plains; also some half breeds about this settlement. They are, however, expected in this spring. To meet this emergency I have arranged with Charles Nolin, a half-breed of Touchwood Hills, to plough up and sow some twenty acres. This I was forced to do, owing to their not being a sufficiency of stock at the farm. I have already reported to you what I have done with Yellow Quill's band. By having an Instructor at Fishing Lakes, I not only please the Indians, but at the same time commence instilling in the minds of some of those hardest to control the seeds of domestication. These Indians are great hunters and have supplied themselves to a great extent with food during the winter. Both the Nolins', half-breeds, understand the management of these Indians very well, and I think that I did well in retaining their services in making Fishing Lake the headquarters. I further had in view the saving of freight, it being some 140 miles nearer Touchwood than Nut Lake, and the fact that the road to Nut Lake from Fishing Lake is at this time of the year impassable. I am pleased to say that all seed grain and supplies for the spring's work have, with a few exceptions, been sent from here. For certain all the seed and what further supplies that remain to be sent will be on its way in a week from now. I trust Mr. McConnell continues to give satisfaction.