

increased and enlarged their gardens since my previous visit, which is an evidence that a greater interest is taken in farming than formerly.

The Grand Rapids Reserve.

I arrived at this reserve on the 2nd August, and found better crops and a greater quantity of land under cultivation than on any former occasion. The walls of a school house had been erected in a central location, for the convenience of the children attending school, and the Indians were waiting assistance from the Government for its completion.

This is the only band in the agency which has excellent fisheries near the reserve, and therefore it should be more comfortably off than any of the others; but in consequence of reckless improvidence, the members, every winter, clamor for assistance in provisions from the Government.

The Agency of Mr. MacKay.

Although the agent has resided two years at Beren's River, yet, he has neither an office nor a storehouse there; consequently, considerable inconvenience must be experienced in transacting properly the business of the agency. Under these circumstances, I was not disappointed in finding that his official correspondence was unsatisfactorily kept, being neither systematically arranged nor methodically indexed for office reference.

In the payment of annuities and in the distribution of provisions and other supplies, as well as in visiting the different gardens on the reserves, he faithfully carried out his instructions.

The Cross Lake Reserve.

I arrived here from Grand Rapids on the 8th of August, having been delayed on the journey two days by stormy weather, and travelled a distance of 175 miles in about three days and a-half.

The agent having just finished the payments of annuities to the different bands under his supervision, was starting for Winnipeg, upon my arrival.

In conformity with a commendable regulation established by the band, for the prevention of dishonesty, every member, on receiving annuity, promptly liquidates all his obligations. The school was opened last February, by Chief Garrioch, who has conducted it ever since.

The children were advancing as rapidly as could be expected under his tuition, with the limited supply of school material available there, as they had only a few elementary books in their possession. The teacher's attainments are limited to reading, writing and singing, but he is only temporarily employed, until a more competent one can be obtained.

This band commenced the building of a school house, and has nearly completed the walls. The crops, owing to the continued drought prevailing, were largely a failure. This reserve is well adapted for farming and cattle-raising, as the quality of the soil is superior and the meadows are excellent.

The Norway House Reserve.

I returned to this reserve on the 10th of August, and had a meeting with the Indians in the mission school house at Rossville, on the 11th. The chief and councillors expressed themselves glad, as on former occasions, to welcome me to their village. They informed me that the Government school house was nearly finished, and they were desirous that an efficient teacher be immediately appointed to instruct their children. I succeeded in complying with their request, by securing the services of Mr. McDonald, a graduate of St. John's College here, who is well qualified for the situation. The mission school has been closed for two years past,