

wet with rain and covered with snow, and had all the potato patch ploughed up about ten days before my visit, leaving upwards of one-half of it in that condition without doing anything further towards it; consequently all the potatoes exposed were destroyed by frost. He employed an Indian to gather the potatoes exposed by the plough on the balance of the patch, who left them in small heaps on the ground with no protection from the frost, but a few sheaves of oats carelessly thrown over them, so that about one-half of those potatoes also got either injured or destroyed by frost. I know of nothing to palliate such gross, culpable, carelessness in any official. The Agent requested the instructor to immediately stack the oats, and secure the balance of the potatoes. I started back for the Indian Gardens, at Hamilton's Crossing, on the 15th, and arrived there during the following night. In my interview with the Indians and settlers, I was delighted to be informed by both parties that they had buried deep the hatchet of contention, and had been smoking the peace-pipe of unbroken friendship ever since the Government in its wisdom granted to the Indians the section of land occupied by them before they entered into treaty with the Queen. This portion of the band have erected eleven houses here, and one stable; they have fifteen acres under cultivation, one horse, fifty bushels corn, thirty bushels wheat, fifty bushels oats, fifteen bushels barley and six hundred bushels potatoes; they have no cattle. They received two oxen from the Government a number of years ago. One of them being lame, the chief, Yellow Quill, informed me was killed by them at Long Plains, as their children were hungry; and the other having fallen into the river, got so badly injured that he died immediately upon being dragged ashore. They ask for a bull and four cows, still due them according to what had been supplied to nearly all the other bands in Treaties 1 and 2. Eight loads of hay were cut and removed from their section of land here, by Mr. Hamilton; and a large quantity of hay is stacked on their reserve at Swan Lake, by the white settlers in the neighborhood. They are in great need of oxen to plough, harrow and draw logs for building their houses and stables. The chief got seriously injured in carrying heavy timber from the woods, for his house, and he was unable to do anything when I was there, from a severe pain in his breast.

On the 16th October I started back to the Agency at Portage la Prairie, and arrived there after night.

Rosseau River.

I did not visit this reserve this year, owing to the lateness of the season on my return, and the amount of correspondence which accumulated in my absence, requiring my immediate attention. I was informed, however, by the Agent that the Indians living there and at the rapids up the river, have fourteen houses, ten stables, ten acres under cultivation, five horses, forty-six head of cattle, three hundred and fifty bushels of potatoes and one hundred and twenty-five tons of hay; that during their payments of annuities last summer, whiskey vendors flocked to the reserve like vultures to the carnage left on a battlefield; and that, consequently, he was unable to control with the inadequate force at his disposal, this infamous traffic. It is necessary to employ hereafter professional constables or policemen from Winnipeg, who will fearlessly and faithfully protect the Indians from the annual incursions of those hydra-headed monsters to the reserve.

On the morning of the 17th of October I inspected the office and storehouse at the Agency, and found that Mr. Ogletree honestly and faithfully attends to everything entrusted to him by the Department, but owing to the nomadic character of the four Indian bands under his charge, he is unable to induce the greater number of them to devote themselves to farming, and consequently it is impossible for him, at present, to give as practical an account of his stewardship, as might under more favorable circumstances be expected of him.

The number of Indians paid in those four bands in 1877 was 1,121, and that paid this year was 1,011, an increase of twenty in seven years. The total number of Indians in the fifty-four bands embraced within the Manitoba Superintendency in 1877 was 10,206, and the total number in those bands paid this year was 10,106, a