

me that the attendance of pupils was very small, averaging from none up to five pupils. The Agent has taken up his residence here ever since a year ago last fall, after he finished the payments to the Indians. He is living in the Episcopal Methodist chapel which he rented for his dwelling house. The Indians received 50 large axes from the agent last summer, but they complain that they have not received the number of hoes to which they are entitled by treaty, and therefore want them, as they are greatly in need of them. I started to Poplar River on the 24th but being detained a day, on account of stormy weather, at Sandy Point, I did not arrive there until the 25th. There is a fragment of the Beren's River Band living here who have 13 houses no cattle, nor stables, but they had the timber ready for building a school house, which they expected to finish before next summer, when they hoped to be supplied with a teacher. They raised 350 bushels of potatoes last year, and expect to have 500 bushels this year. They say that it would be a great accommodation to them were the payments made to them here instead of having to go to Beren's River, frequently in stormy weather, at considerable risk of losing their lives.

#### *Norway House.*

I left for this reserve on the 26th, and arrived on the 28th. I encountered most tempestuous weather nearly all the way from Dog-Head and I think my canoe was never tossed so widely on the raging billows of the deep, as in reaching Montreal Point where it was swamped and I had a narrow escape from drowning before I managed to get ashore. The Agent gave a contract to Roderick Ross, Esquire, to complete the school house commenced by the Indians a couple of years ago. It is 30 x 40 feet in size. Mr. Ross had it nearly roofed with shingles when I was there. He was putting doors, windows and a stove 3 feet long into it; all for \$100. The Indians are going to have it floored and seated themselves. The doors, windows, books and stove shipped from Winnipeg in the fall of 1882, to the agency at Grand Rapids for this school house were never forwarded from there. The Indians received at last payments one hundred axes, six scythes, six sickles, two grooving picks, two wrenches and two ox harnesses. They also received the balance of their quota of cattle, viz., one bull and two cows, so that they have now forty-seven head of cattle, seventy-two houses, twenty-two stables, thirty-five acres under cultivation, six ploughs, five harrows, one thousand seven hundred and fifty bushels potatoes and about one hundred and fifty tons of hay. It is customary for absentees to leave their tickets with officers of the Hudson Bay Company, and sometimes with the chief, councillors, or relatives in the band, and the Agent upon receiving those tickets accompanied by orders duly signed and witnessed makes payments to the parties presenting them, but I consider that this practice, so far as traders are concerned, should be abolished, as they are liable to take advantage of it by securing the tickets and orders for years in advance; not to mention the possibility with or without the knowledge of the Agent of manufacturing orders to suit emergencies in order to obtain the coveted annuity to liquidate advances made to those Indians. The chief requests that a school teacher be sent them without delay, as they have no school whatever now. He asks that a supply of different seeds be sent them next year to plant their gardens. He wants an extension of their reserve towards Pine Creek, so as to include within it some hay lands as they have scarcely any for their cattle where they are. Charles Oig adopted a little girl, daughter of Augustus Coland, whose parents are both dead, but her step-mother draws her annuity, although the child is not living with her, and the chief wishes her money to be paid in future to her adopted father, who supports her.

#### *Cross Lake.*

I did not visit the reserve this year, but I was informed that Joseph Queskespom, before his marriage to Eliza Squawetum of Norway House, had been living there with his daughter Mary, by whom he had two children, a boy and a girl. It appears that no annuity was ever drawn for this boy, although he is sixteen or seventeen