

fur-bearing animals are becoming scarcer. A year ago the whole country side was burned, and again this summer fires were raging south of Buffalo River and Portage la Loche. These fires would naturally destroy many fur bearing animals, and their young. This, together with the use of poison complained of, might account for immediate scarcity. If these two evils could be stopped fur would again increase. This country is not patrolled by fire rangers.

PORTAGE LA LOCHE After completing work at Buffalo River the party left at 11.00 o'clock on Friday the 26th of June, reaching Portage la Loche at 10.30 on the 27th. We found all the Indians assembled on the north side of the la Loche Lake, at the Roman Catholic Mission. I learned that they had been here for two weeks, being taught religion. They were practically starving, having nothing to eat but some small jackfish caught in la Loche Lake. I paid Treaty the same afternoon, and gave them some provisions. LeMagre told me that was the first real meal they had had in two weeks, and they had to stop there another whole week. This seems too bad, when surrounding this place and a little distance away are lakes full of fine fish, but these people are kept at the mission by the priests practically starving while they teach them religion. Much sickness was found here also, in fact conditions were the worst we found in the whole Agency, but I am glad to say the majority of cases were non-treaty. Out of 50 cases treated over 40 were halfbreeds. The doctor

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C.P.