

THE PAS RESERVE.

The 21st August, I began the survey of that portion of the Pas Indian Reserve lying to the south of the Saskatchewan River.

At this place a narrow strip of land, averaging about a half mile in width, was laid out, including all the good land that the Indians pointed out and that could be found. The rear of this portion is an extensive swamp, with a heavy moss bed from 1 to 2 feet in depth, under which, at this season of the year in places it was frozen. This swamp has scattered spruce and tamarac over it, with some pitch pines and birch; the sub-soil in some places vegetable deposit and in others sandy. This portion might be easily drained, there being a good fall of from 10 to 50 feet to the marshes and river, within the distance of 20 or 30 chains.

The timber is not generally large, and is principally poplar, spruce, tamarac, with birch and some willow.

The land, class 1 and 2 on the front, and class 3 along the rear, the rear lines running nearly all through swamp, and enclosing all the available land.

Here 1,559.19 acres were given to the Band. Also a quarter section (160 acres) was laid out on the same side of the river, about 50 chains below the north-east corner of this portion of the Reserve.

The Hudson Bay Company have a station here, known as The Pas, or Fort Defiance. The former word is a corruption of the Indian word "O'bah," signifying, "it is narrow" or "the narrows," on account of the whole of the Saskatchewan waters running through one channel at this point.

The Church of England Mission Society have had a mission here for over 40 years. At present it is under the supervision of the Revd. Mr. Reader; in fact before the Indians were resident here they built their first house and church, the remains of which only are visible.

There are some 19 houses on this portion of the Reserve, nearly all of which have small gardens attached to them.

I here laid out 3 acres for a school lot near the church property.

Hay Land Surveyed.

There is but a small portion of hay land connected with this Reserve. I laid out what the Indians showed me to be their hay ground, but on my return to the Pas in the month of November, the Hudson Bay Company and the Church Mission laid claim to the largest portion of the hay ground.

The Hudson Bay Company hold a transfer deed, and the Mission held the hay ground before the Indians were located at the Pas.

The Chief and Councillors pointed out to me the bounds of both claims. I then planted posts and ran the several boundaries separating these claims from the Indian hay lands.

The hay on the Birch River Reserve being very abundant, can be brought down the river on timber floats.

The Pas Survey Continued.

On the 31st August we moved our camp and began the survey of that portion of the Pas Reserve which lies to the north of the Saskatchewan River. Here, as on the south side, we were confined to a narrow strip of land all along the front of the shore and although upwards of 12 miles in length the contents amount to but 4,299.93 acres, giving the width of a little over a-half mile. In this content is included Rock Island, of about 32 acres, where limestone might be procured for foundation purposes.

About 6 miles of this part of the Reserve lies to the north of and fronting on the Saskatchewan River; then leaving the Main River at the Big Eddy and then running northerly to the east of Pike Lake; then inclining to the eastward and having a tie-a-make or Whitefish Lake on the west and at its northern extremity being bounded to the north by Watchee or Mountain Lake.

Nearly the entire rear of this portion of the Reserve is bounded by an extensive swamp, with moss bed similar to the part on the south side of the river, here and