

his mind of these erroneous impressions and to convince him that the Government have done much more for them and other bands than was ever promised. They finally agreed to send their children, in the meantime, to the Mission Schools.

#### *Hungry Hall.*

I arrived at these reserves on the 13th of July. Chief Kaibaitaikai informed me that his band planted 100 bushels of potatoes and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  bushels of corn this year, and they have two oxen, three dwelling houses and one stable. In 1877, the number in this band was sixty one, whereas this year only forty eight were paid; a decrease of nineteen annuitants. The other band near the mouth of the river, at Hungry Hall, planted this year fifty bushels of potatoes, and about two of corn across the river in the United States where they live the greater part of their time, but they planted very little in Canada. They have seven head of cattle, three horses, one dwelling house, and one dancing house. The chief, Maisquacekeezick (Red Sky) was laid up with rheumatism. The number paid in Mais-quacekizuke's Band in 1877 was forty six, and this year forty three, a decrease of three persons. The total number of Indians included within this agency which is composed of fourteen bands, paid in 1877, was 1,254, and the number paid in 1883, was 1294, an increase of forty in seven years. This, however, does not show the actual increase of those bands during the time specified, for I notice upon reference to the back pay-sheets that in many instances Indians were drawing for larger families than they had, and these irregularities had been discovered and corrected besides, a number of American Indians who had succeeded surreptitiously in getting their names on the pay-sheets were subsequently discovered and their names struck off.

#### THE AGENCY OF MR. MACPHERSON.

I arrived at Assabaskasing, on the evening of the 15th of July, and inspected the office and storehouse at the agency, and found in the former one desk, one table, one box-stove, six chairs, one pen rack, one desk knife, one inkstand, one box paper fasteners, one dozen writing pens, three dozen penholders, three dozen pencils, two dozen ink and pencil erasers, two quires foolscap paper, four sheets printed forms for Indian supplies, sixteen dozen envelopes of different sizes, one quire blotting paper, one receipt book, one daily journal, one blank form book for distributing Indian supplies, one brass ruler, and one ivory paper knife; and in the storehouse four ploughs without coulters, five wooden and two iron harrows, thirty trace chains, two hundred and fifty-five axes, four grub-hoes, two sickles, eighteen scythes, ten and a half bushels barley, nineteen bushels wheat, a quantity of carrot, onion, turnip and cabbage seeds received too late in season for sowing this year, besides forty lbs. tea, twenty-five lbs. sugar, sixty lbs. tobacco, eight hundred and eighty-five lbs. pork, and two thousand and eleven lbs. flour. The agent wants some blank forms for warrants, some for depositions, a pair of hand-cuffs, and a copy of the Dominion Statutes for his guidance, being *ex-officio* a Justice of the Peace. These are really necessary, and I considered that not only this agent but also the others should be supplied with them in order that they may be capable of discharging properly the magisterial duties incumbent upon them in connection with their responsible positions. The agent complains of the inefficiency of the present arrangement for the carrying of his mails between Rat Portage and Assabaskasing. I think Michael Morrison, of Hungry Hall, if he would undertake it, could afford to carry the mail matter of this agency at a lower rate than any other person for he has already the contract for carrying, semi-monthly, the Fort Francis mails, and an additional one hundred dollars per annum, would probably induce him to carry the Assabaskasing mails also, as he passes, on his regular route, within half a dozen miles of that place. A great convenience to the Department would be accomplished by this arrangement, as important letters have frequently been delayed at Rat Portage for several weeks and even months under the present system. The books and correspondence of the agency are in a most satisfactory condition, and