

flour. The charge that the flour caused the disease and death comes from Mr. Paterson, who never saw the flour, who never visited the reserve and who knows no more of the affair than he gathered from the official reports.

Now, there were ample causes for the disease and death without aid from the flour at all. The Indians live in filthy and crowded houses, they refuse to take proper exercise, and they are dirty in their persons. Let their flour be never so good, they do not make wholesome bread with it. They simply mix the flour with a little water, and fry it in tallow or other grease, using no leaven of any kind. Of course, it is heavy and indigestible; and the dyspepsia reported by Dr. Girard is accounted for by it.

The diseases which afflicted the Bloods and Piegans in that year spread to other reserves to which this inferior flour was not supplied, as well as to non-treaty Indians in Canada and the Indians south of the line who received rations from the United States government.

Again, white people used some of this very flour, and they were not afflicted with the diseases which proved so fatal among the Indians.

Seeing, then, that Indians who did not use this inferior flour, shared the diseases complained of, and that white settlers who did use the flour escaped them; seeing that there were ample causes for the disease without seeking them in the flour; and seeing bad flour would cause only one of the diseases which prevailed among the Indians, the reader will have no difficulty in reaching the conclusion that this lot of inferior flour did not "spread disease and death among the Indians of the Northwest."