

through Meadow Portage a saving of fifty miles of a shallow circuitous river navigation might be effected. In view of the extensive timber limits existing in the vicinity of Lake Winnipegosis and its tributary streams it is of paramount importance that the obstructions to navigation in, at least, the Water Hen and White Mud Rivers should be removed at an early day, in order to facilitate the development of these magnificent resources upon which the advancing multitude of immigrants to our northwestern prairies are depending for material for the construction of their dwelling houses and other buildings.

THE AGENCY OF MR. OGLETREE.

*Sandy Bay.*

I started for this reserve on the 9th at noon. All but three families were away from home. The waters of the lake are between three and four feet lower than for several years, so that the reserve is not now flooded as it had been then. They have 25 dwelling houses, 12 stables, 6 acres under cultivation, 34 horses, 77 head of cattle, 250 bushels of potatoes and 133 tons of hay. The councillor, Baptiste Spence, complains that during the flooded state of the reserve the majority of the band abandoned it, and that he cannot now persuade them to return to assist those living on it to build a school-house. He says that they will erect a school-house themselves if the Government will provide a teacher. They received twelve scythes this year from the Agent. They request that another ox be given them, as one of those received strayed away and was impounded at High Bluff, and was refused to be given up to them when they went after it. They never received any bulls or cows, and therefore they want the number supplied the other bands.

*Long Plain.*

I started from Sandy Bay in the afternoon of the 9th of October; reached Portage la Prairie on the 11th, and proceeded to the reserve accompanied by the Agent on the following day, and arrived there at noon, but all the Indians were away from home. They have 16 houses, 7 stables, 6 acres under cultivation, 10 horses, 1 ox and 250 bushels of potatoes. They want 1 bull and 4 cows, as they have not received any yet. Of course, according to the original stipulations of Treaties 1 and 2, no cattle were mentioned therein; and only a bull to each reserve and a cow to each chief were to be given, according to a memorandum passed by an Order in Council on the 30th of April, 1875, to cover alleged outside or verbal promises; but as a male and female of all animals raised by farmers were also promised, it was afterwards considered better to give to each band in those treaties the same number of cattle, in lieu thereof, as was promised in Treaties 3 and 5, viz.: 1 bull, 2 oxen, and 4 cows; therefore nearly all of them have received this number already, and complaints are never heard now about "outside promises," which was the burden of their speeches in every pow-wow I attended when I first visited them.

*Swan Lake.*

I started for the reserve in the afternoon of the 12th and arrived there on the 14th, leaving word with the chief and councillors living at the Indian Gardens, near Hamilton's Crossing, to meet me there upon my return. We saw but one family camped on the reserve at Swan Lake, but we were informed there were three others staying about a mile distant from where this family had their wigwam. The scenery of this reserve and its vicinity is most beautiful, and the fertility of its soil is unsurpassed. Ten acres were broken and put under cultivation by the Department for the benefit of the band. Eight acres of the above was under a heavy crop of oats, considerably damaged by early frosts, and two acres were under an excellent crop of potatoes. The cultivation, harvesting and securing of those crops were entrusted to the supervision of Mr. Farming Instructor Paul Kane, who had about a week or two previous to my visit to the reserve, cut the oats with a self binder and had an Indian to stack two thirds of it leaving the rest, lying in sheaves scattered upon the ground,