

I look upon the beaver as being of so much importance to the Indians of the North-West that I think, even when their claims to almost everything else have been surrendered, that the ownership of at least some of the little lakes and ponds on their hunting grounds, in which beaver are in the habit of breeding, should be reserved to them, and they should be encouraged to take care of and breed these interesting and valuable animals, if not to domesticate them. See Report for 1884-5, page 27, *et seq.*, for my views on this subject.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

No crimes or serious offences have been committed or, if committed, reported to me during the past year. It is only of such offences which, under the circumstances, I should consider it prudent or even in the interest of the inhabitants of the District, to take cognizance. Necessary as it undoubtedly is to punish wrong-doers and criminals, it is quite as important and much more sensible to prevent, as far as possible, wrong-doing and crime by wise and timely precautions.

Holding these views, I have regarded it as one of my chief duties to make myself acquainted with the exceptional social condition and the peculiar wants of the people of this territory, in order that I might be in a better position to advise the Government and to offer more or less valuable suggestions, having chiefly for their object the prevention of crime and the welfare of the people at large.

Respectfully submitted,

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Stipendiary Magistrate.