

During my stay here, the half Blackfoot, "Pem-me-tah-ah-soo," a chief made at the first treaty, requested an interview. He informed me that he had given up his resistance to the wishes of the Government, and that, if the Department would help him a little, he would at once build himself a house, and settle on See-kas-kootch's Reserve, together with the few families who follow him. He solemnly pledged himself to settle at once, and I informed him that he would receive the same help and assistance that other Indians receive under similar circumstances. Chief See-kas-kootch and his headmen were quite satisfied to have this chief and his followers settle upon their reserve. I heard, subsequently, that he was as good as his word, and the agent now reports him and followers as the hardest working Indians on the reserve.

*School.*

The Rev. Mr. Quinny, Church of England, has a school, but he reports the attendance as very small, eight pupils being the maximum number. He advanced this as a reason for not having sent in his school returns with regularity.

I took an inventory of the supplies, implements and live stock, and audited the farm books.

*Frog Lake Indian Agency.*

I audited the books of the agency, and made an inventory of the supplies on hand. This I will include in a subsequent report.

In passing through Fort Pitt I was interviewed by Big Bear, Lucky Man, Little Poplar, and their followers. I endeavored to convince them how much better off they would be if they chose a reserve and settled down.

On my journey from Pitt to Battleford I followed the trail on the north side of the river and consequently passed near Jackfish Lake, where a number of non-treaty Indians have assembled, for the past few years. I camped one night on the prairie, near three lodges of these Indians. I found them well provided with meat, good comfortable lodges, fat horses, carts, &c. In reply to my question, asked of the oldest man, who was his chief? he said "Manitou is my chief." I mention this circumstance, to show that if Big Bear and his followers will not work, they can subsist by devoting their whole time to hunting and fishing.

*Battleford District.*

I arrived here on 12th instant. The agent had made his arrangements to commence the payment of the treaty annuities on the following day. I therefore decided to make my inspection of the different reserves and farming agencies at the same time.

*Band 109, Red Pheasant, Chief; — Applegarth, Farming Instructor.*

The instructor has built for himself a small, comfortable house and a storehouse on the reserve. This band numbered, in 1883, one hundred and forty-one souls, and one hundred and thirty-nine received annuity this year, of whom sixty-nine men and women are considered able to work. They put in one hundred and sixty acres of wheat, oats, barley, potatoes and turnips. The grain was so much injured by August frosts, that it was out for hay. The potatoes were somewhat hurt by June frost; but, notwithstanding this, the yield was four hundred and seventeen bushels. The seed grain was furnished by the Department, but the seed potatoes were their own. Forty-seven acres of new land was broken this summer, making now under cultivation two hundred acres. They have twenty-nine dwellings and a stable; of treaty and loaned cattle, they have fifty-four head, thirteen of these being cows and ten oxen. I weighed the bacon and flour in the storehouse, and noticed that the bacon was "long clear" instead of "short clear."

*School.*

The school was closed for the day, on account of annuity payments. I was therefore unable to inspect it.