

They have asked for a teacher for the school, and, in consequence, I am making arrangements to have one sent to them, according to instructions, dated Winnipeg, 16th December, 1881, No. 3,697.

DUCK BAY.

This band, composed mostly of French half-breeds, have made great progress in gardening. I inspected their gardens, which are mostly situated on islands, and, judging by their appearance, they will have a very good yield. They have also broken land in readiness for more seed, such as wheat, barley, &c., which they hope the Government will furnish them in order to enable them to cultivate that land. They have a plough and harrow, but they require one yoke of oxen. One yoke of oxen was given to their Chief, Kisicose, for them, but they state that those oxen were killed and eaten by the chief on his reserve at Swan River.

The provisions were delivered in time on all the reserves, with the exceptions of Ebb and Flow Lakes and Fairford, owing to unfavorable weather; but there were no complaints among the Indians, as they were fully aware of the circumstances which occasioned the delay.

The season being drier than those of the last few years, I see a marked improvement in gardening and farming pursuits, which promises well for the future; that is, if the lake does not overflow as it has done the last several years.

An epidemic of measles was prevalent on most of the reserves this year, and several cases proved fatal. The bands all expressed a wish to have a doctor visit them at as early a date as possible.

I was met at Duck Bay by a deputation of Indians from the Swan River Reserve, Treaty No. 4. They came for the purpose of requesting me to lay before the Department, the following: The Chief "La Clef" or "The Key" with a few followers, has abandoned his reserve at Swan River, in hopes of getting another reserve at Pelly or thereabout, and by that means compelling the remaining members, who are by far the majority, to follow them. They stated to me, that it was impossible for them to leave the homes of their childhood, and in fact they were not provided with means of roaming over the prairies like the chief and his few followers, who were used to the life and were provided with animals for the purpose. They, therefore, beg the Department to grant them their desire for a change of reservation, they being the majority of the band.

It is their wish to have a reserve in the immediate vicinity of Shoal River, north of Lake Winnipegosis, so as to include their houses and small plots of ground which were held by them before the transfer. They also wish to be attached, like the Duck Bay band, to this Treaty No. 2, for payment of their annuity. The members of the band who have left with the chief are half-breeds.

Considerable quantities of whiskey were disposed of among the Indians, and two cases were brought up before me, which I dealt with according to law, and since then we have had no fresh instances.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

H. MARTINEAU,
Indian Agent.

ASSABASKASING AGENCY,
LAKE OF THE WOODS,
KEEWATIN, 22nd August, 1882.

The Right Honorable
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following Report and tabular statement, in duplicate, with respect to the Indians of this Agency, for the year ended 30th June, 1882.