

gone away. The attendance of the children had been very irregular latterly, owing to the absence of parents engaged in fishing, hunting and lumbering. The chief, David Rundle, wants a hand grist-mill to be supplied them for grinding their corn and wheat. As the hay lands are not very good along the river, they ask the privilege of cutting hay on its west side between the north boundary and the lake. As the only timber on the reserve is poplar, they want some spruce timber on the south of the reserve to be granted them for building purposes. The chief represents that the Agent informed him that only seven families more would be allowed to remove from Norway House to this band, as only 90 families were promised that privilege by treaty, but he contends that eight of those families on the pay-sheets were formed by marriages since their arrival, and therefore that 15 more families are entitled to come to Fisher River. Whether these representations are correct or not I consider that all who are desirous of leaving Norway House should be permitted to do so, as they never can succeed in farming there, in consequence of the limited area of arable land. They want the restriction forbidding heir selling the products of their gardens removed, as it shackles and cripples their progress in farming. They want to know the annual rental received for the saw-mill site on their reserve, and what is done with the money. They request that another school teacher be sent them at once. They say that they paid Revd. Mr. Ross \$78 for having their school-house floored, shingled and seated, besides putting a door and windows into it.

Jack Head River.

I left for this reserve on the morning of the 19th, but having to wrestle for upwards of a day with furious tempests and foaming billows, I did not arrive until the evening of the 20th of August. The Indians built the walls of a school-house, roofed it with thatch, and the Revd. Mr. Ross received \$100 from the Department for putting in a door, five windows a stove two feet long with fifteen lengths of pipe, and the flooring. They have no cattle, having lost all they received. They have 17 houses, planted 150 bushels potatoes, and James Sinclair, councillor had 350 bushels of potatoes himself this year. They received three axes, five hoes, one hay fork, and one sickle from the agent last summer. They want their reserve surveyed, as they are afraid of lumbermen encroaching upon it. The councillor states that in his portion of the Island Band, there are ten families who have only received one hoe apiece, whereas they are entitled to two hoes each by treaty, and that in order to plant their potatoes they were obliged to use old axes with handles driven through the eyes and bent double, so that they could be utilized like hoes.

Blood Vein River,

I did not visit this reserve as there is scarcely any one living there. The chief, Peter Stony, and his followers, devote the greater part of their time to fishing, hunting, dancing and gambling. They have only three houses, no cattle, and cultivate hardly any lands. The Island Band is composed of 284 Indians located as follows, viz: eighty-four at Hollow, Water River, thirty-six at Loon Straits, sixty-four at Blood Vein River, and eighty at Jack Head River.

Beren's River.

I started for this reserve on the 21st, but having encountered a terrible storm in crossing the lake and getting my canoe swamped between Swampy Island and the main shore, I did not arrive until the 23rd of August. Found the chief Jacob Beron and all the councillors except Antoine Guay away from home. He informed me that fewer potatoes were planted this year than formerly, but if they turned out well there would be enough for the use of the band. They had 18 acres under cultivation, and expected to have about 900 bushels of potatoes. They have thirty-three houses, four stables, eleven head of cattle, and forty tons of hay. The Methodist Mission school supported by the Government was closed on the 18th of June, and was not reopened when I was there. The teacher was away, but Antoine Guay informed