

meadows inside of the block. The land from which they used to cut their hay is all outside.

The Lake of the Woods and Shoal Lake Indians, those that have not their reserves laid out wish to have them surveyed.

Chiefs Pawahwassin, Conducumecowininie and Nootinaquaham wish to be allowed to change their wild land reserves lying on the north shore of the entrance of the North-West Angle River, elsewhere; they wish the change, as it is unfit for cultivation; it is covered with nothing else but rock and swamp; no good timber on the ground.

The general health of the Indians under my supervision has been good. There has been a small increase in the population since my last report.

The language used by the Indians under my supervision is the Chippewa dialect.

The Indians under my supervision are much dissatisfied on account of the non-arrival of the Indian supplies at this place at the dates appointed. Year after year, since I was appointed Agent, dates are fixed for my guidance, for each place where I am to pay the Indians their annuities, in consequence, I have to notify the Indians to meet me on the dates appointed; the Indians do not bring any provisions along with them for their use while getting their pay; they depend on the supplies they are allowed from the Government, and of our assurance that the supplies will arrive at the date appointed, in consequence the Indians suffer greatly before the supplies arrive; some years they have been obliged to leave before it arrived, after spending a good deal of their treaty money in purchasing provisions to keep themselves and families from starving. Two years ago I had to feed them out of my own stock; last year I had to feed them out of the provisions for destitute Indians, and seed grain lying on hand here; after all, they had to leave before the arrival of the supplies. This year the supplies were backward in arriving also; I had to purchase from Mr. H. Gardner, a merchant, 600 lbs. flour, 6 lbs. tea, and 6 lbs. tobacco, to feed the Indians while we were waiting for the arrival of the supplies; if this could be remedied, it would put down a great deal of discontent among the Indians on this line.

With regard to the intoxicating liquor traffic, I am sorry to state that in place of getting less it is getting worse; the greatest quantity that comes there is brought through by the Dawson road; from Winnipeg to the North-West Angle the road is not guarded, the dealers bring their stuff through without fear of being molested, either by the Dominion or United States Government; just now there is a large quantity put by on islands in the Lake of the Woods, by the dealers; the Indians, I am sorry to say, get a fair share of the stuff. Some dealers brought some of the stuff to the place of the Indian payments this year, but fortunately a detective without employment (Hugh Kerr) was at the place of payment; when the dealers heard of his name they left immediately. But at Rat Portage place of payment, I was much annoyed by them selling the liquor to the Indians. I applied for assistance to the Magistrate of Rat Portage, but none of the offenders were caught; better protection will be required another year at the time of Indian payments, if the liquor traffic is still carried on.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. McPHERSON,

*Indian Agent.*