

promoted by the opening up and development of the modest resources of our own territory in the immediate north than those of the far off western prairies, of the Rocky Mountains, or of the still more remote and distant regions of the Mackenzie river.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

As stated in the first part of this report, I had some reason to apprehend that competition having at length sprung up at Abittibi between the Hudson Bay Company and opposition traders, intoxicating liquors might be introduced and employed in the fur trade, and thus the Indians, comparatively few of whom are able to use such liquors in moderation or to abstain therefrom altogether, would be cheated and demoralized if not killed, as many doubtless are in those sections of the country where untaught and untrained to habits of self-control, this terrible temptation comes suddenly upon them. Aside from the injuries they may inflict upon each other, their mode of life exposes them to many dangers when intoxicated. They upset their canoes and are drowned in the summer, or lie out and are frozen in the winter, and are always liable to maim or disable themselves or others with guns and axes which are rarely out of their hands.

I was glad, however, to learn from the Rev. Father Nedlec that, much to the credit of all engaged in the trade, intoxicating liquors have not as yet been employed. Father Nedlec has been the zealous and indefatigable Catholic missionary among the Indians not only at Abittibi but in nearly the whole of the disputed territory ever since my appointment as Stipendiary Magistrate. He visits his people as far north as Albany Factory every year, and we have repeatedly met on the Abittibi river and on the coast of James' Bay. At Abittibi the native population is almost entirely Catholic, and here, therefore, more particularly, the worthy Father has great influence—an influence which, he assured me, he has exerted and would continue to exert to prevent a traffic so demoralizing and ruinous to the Indians as he was well aware that in intoxicating liquors would be.

This was more especially satisfactory to me, inasmuch as the Hudson Bay Company's post is in a sort of no man's land. It may be in Quebec, in Ontario, or in unorganized territory, and this uncertainty must continue until the boundary question is settled. While many (possibly a majority) of the Indians who trade at this post and are camped there during the summer have their hunting grounds in the territory claimed by Ontario, the post itself lies, in all probability, to the east of the provincial boundary, and if so it cannot possibly be situated within my jurisdiction. Nor is it so far as I am aware within the jurisdiction of any other magistrate whether of the Dominion or Province of Quebec. This state of things has a direct tendency to encourage lawlessness by the supposed impunity with which minor offences such as those arising out of the sale of liquor to Indians can be committed.

As opposition traders (sometimes unprincipled) penetrate further into the territory which, owing to increased facilities of transport by railways and steamers, they are gradually doing, this danger will increase. And it is to be hoped, in the interest of the Indians and of the law-abiding fur traders—be they officers of the Hudson Bay Company or others—that this state of doubt and uncertainty will not be permitted to continue.

I have now only to add that, on leaving the Hudson Bay Company's post at Metachewan, I took the route which led to their post on Lake Tamagaming, and thence down the Tamagaming and Sturgeon rivers to Lake Nipissing.

The region thus traversed presents some features of interest both in respect of minerals, timber and soil. But as it is not included within the limits of the territory which is the subject of this report, I think it will be better, if required, to submit a separate report in reference thereto.

Respectfully submitted,

E. B. BORRON;
Stipendiary Magistrate.