

school house propped up so as to make it safe for occupancy, it being very much decayed and in an unsafe state. This, I was informed by the teacher, has put the children back very much. It is the intention of the Indians to put up a school of their own at this place and another at the Big Eddy.

The reserve at the Pas Village was being surveyed by Mr. Austin, D.L.S., when I passed through that place on the 7th September. His intention was to survey the Red Earth, Shoal Lake and Birch River Reserves of this band next.

On my return from Cumberland to the Pas I took a canoe with six men and started up to the Pas Mountain, in order to visit the Shoal Lake and Red Earth Reserves. The route is very long and is very difficult to travel when the water is low in the lakes. I found that the land at both these places was good enough for farming purposes. At Shoal Lake Reserve they have put up the walls of a school house and ask the Department for assistance to finish and furnish it.

They have several houses built and their potato gardens were looking very well.

At the Red Earth Reserve, which is about 170 miles distant from the Pas Village by the route travelled, they have a very nice potato garden in common, very good land and good enough timber.

The Indians here appear to take more interest in taking care of the implements supplied to them. This was the only reserve where I noticed that a building had been put up expressly for the purpose, and all the tools and implements snugly stored therein. Their cattle they had purchased themselves, and I must say that they were as fine a looking lot of animals of the kind as I have ever seen. They are also well stocked with native ponies of all of which they seem to take very good care.

Both Shoal Lake and Red Earth Reserves are in Treaty 6, as they are situated quite a distance west of Treaty 5.

These Indians find it a hardship to be obliged to travel every year a distance of about 350 miles, in order to receive their annuity payments at the Pas Village. They, therefore, request that the Department direct that they be paid at their respective reserves in future. The same complaints are being made by the Birch River Indians, and they also request payment on their reserves hereafter, as they are at present obliged to go to the Pas Village, a distance of about 35 miles, every year in order to receive payment.

There are 90 persons at Birch River, 70 at Red Earth, 61 at Shoal Lake and 448 at the Pas Reserve, altogether 669 persons in the band.

The Birch River band are making some improvements. Their potato gardens were looking unusually well. I saw there some very nice wheat and barley. The wheat was not yet quite ripe; but the barley was already harvested when I visited the reserve on the 23rd August. The school house is not yet put up, but the wood is all on the ground. They complain that this is caused by want of tools to work with and scarcity of provisions. They are, however, determined to put it up this season.

CUMBERLAND RESERVE.

I made the payments at this place on the 25th August; some of the Indians were much disappointed to learn that their repeated demands for a transfer to some place in the vicinity of Fort à la Corne had not been acceded to by the Department. They still persist in asking for the transfer, on the plea that at Cumberland it is impossible for them to make a living by farming on account of the rocky, swampy and bushy nature of that part of the country.

On my arrival I found out that the band had objected to the survey of their reserve by Mr. Austin, who had been sent to this place for that purpose. On my talking over the matter with them, they changed their mind and expressed a desire to have their reserves surveyed. I afterwards mentioned this to Mr. Austin, and he informed me that he would go up to Cumberland and survey their reserves for them as soon as he would get through with the Pas reserves.

The Indians informed me that they did not receive any seed grain or potatoes from the Department last spring, and, owing to the hard winter and partial failure