

brother represented that he did not teach one month altogether during the past year, and asked for another to replace him. They received from the agent this year 6 scythes and 1 grindstone.

Ebb and Flow.

I started for this reserve on the 4th of October, but having been detained by stormy weather on an island covered with reeds and rushes, where I was obliged to take shelter from the fury of the tempest for several days, I did not arrive there until the 7th of the month. This band have erected and finished a new schoolhouse, 15 by 19 feet in size. Mrs. Asham has been teaching there since October, 1882. She is a good reader and speller, knows a little about elementary arithmetic and geography but knows nothing of grammar. She had thirty names on her school register. She is really an excellent teacher and were her educational attainments greater she would not have many superiors in her profession. These Indians have 20 houses, 13 stables, 3 storehouses, 15 horses, 58 head of cattle, 650 bushels of potatoes and 108 tons of hay. This band suffered severely from the encroachment of the lake in former years upon their reserve, having their houses and gardens destroyed, but since the water has subsided within the last two years, they have made considerable improvement in buildings and clearings. They ask for an ox to be supplied to them as only one of those they have is old enough to plough.

Manitoba Lake.

I left for this reserve on the 8th, and arrived at the Agency, at Manitoba House the same day, when I met by appointment the Indians of this band, who informed me that they have seventeen houses, seven stables, six horses, forty-two head of cattle, 125 bushels of potatoes, and twenty-eight tons of hay. They planted forty-one bushels of potatoes, but owing to drought the yield was very small. A school was opened here at the beginning of the year by William Sanderson of Fairford. His education is very limited, but he is a fair reader, a legible writer, and has studied the elementary principles of arithmetic. He has an average attendance of about eleven. He teaches in the councillor's dwellinghouse. Two school-houses were nearly completed, one at Dog Creek, 16 by 22 feet in size, and one on the reserve about five or six miles further south. The band is divided into two factions over the location of a school-house, and therefore each party has commenced to build at those different places. Twenty-seven want the school-house to be at the former locality; eight at the latter. The majority of the band want the reserve to be extended northward so as to include their holdings at Dog Creek, and an equivalent to be deducted from the southern extremity of it.

I inspected the office and storehouse at the Agency on the 9th, and found everything perfectly satisfactory. Mr. Martineau is to be congratulated in having succeeded in establishing a school on every reserve within his Agency; in having given the utmost satisfaction to the Indians in his dealings with them; in having made the payments of annuities so correctly to the different bands under his charge, in having made out his tabular statement so complete and accurate, and in having furnished such invaluable information in his remarks on his pay-sheets.

The number of Indians paid in this agency in 1877 was 962, and that in 1883, 895, a decrease of sixty-seven in seven years, which is accounted for by striking off the Pay-Sheets fraudulent and fictitious names and numbers in families found therein.

I may here mention that by widening and enlarging the Fairford River, Lake Manitoba might be lowered several feet, without interfering with navigation and an immense track of the finest grazing, and farming lands in the world be reclaimed. By deepening and otherwise improving the White Mud River, Lake Manitoba might easily be connected, at a trifling expense, by steamboats, with the Manitoba and North-Western Railway at Westbourne. By removing a few scattering boulders, constructing several wing-dams and dredging a number of sand-bars, on Water Hen River, uninterrupted navigation might be obtained to the northern extremity of Lake Winnipegosis, as well as to the Swan and Red Deer Rivers but by cutting a canal $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles long