

their permanent settlement at Turtle Mountain undesirable, especially as there is plenty of room for them at Oak Lake.

A number of families are still at Poplar Point, the Portage and Gladstone, but they are coming into the reserves quite as fast as it is desirable with our present stock of cattle. These Indians all support themselves by working for settlers, and hunting muskrats, so that they are no expense to the Government at any time. Very few of the reserve Indians now practice polygamy; divorces are, however, rather frequent, and it is a little difficult to remember whose wife a woman is, as she may have been married to three or four men at the same reserve; many of the Indians at Bird's Tail Creek are, however, legally married.

Medicino dances still occasionally take place at Oak River, the promoters of these dances giving away everything they have and commencing afresh; great immorality also prevails on these occasions, and it is to be hoped they will soon cease altogether; the Bird's Tail Sioux do not allow them to be held on their reserve.

In March last, I received orders from the Department to visit the Salteaux at Riding Mountain. I found many of them in great distress, and urgently requiring relief. On my return in July to pay this band, I was much pleased with the great improvement in their condition, most of them being well clothed. Several new houses were being built in a style much better than any Indian houses I have yet seen. As the band has now two yoke of good oxen, it is to be hoped that farming operations will be speedily extended. There is plenty of work in this neighborhood in the lumber shanties during the winter; and with the exception of two families without men able to work, these Indians should be no further expense to the Government. The great improvement in this band I consider mainly due to the untiring exertions of the Rev. Mr. Flett, the Presbyterian Missionary on their behalf.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

L. W. HERCHMER,

*Indian Agent.*

GRAND RAPIDS, N.W.T.

INDIAN OFFICE, 18th September, 1880.

The Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs.

SIR,—I herewith forward the tabular statement, as complete as circumstances will permit.

I received the form of tabular statement only after my arrival here, and after making the payments at all the points on the Lake Winnipeg, but had for my own information taken a census and made inquiries of the several bands regarding many of the questions required in the form of tabular statement sent.

I am sorry to say that I was unable to ascertain the value of personal property, &c., total value of real and personal property, &c., description and value of furs, and description and value of other industries and also other distributions.

I have no means of ascertaining the area of reserves, not having been supplied with plans of the surveys of the reserves surveyed, and others have not yet been surveyed.

To the enquiry: "acres under wood," I must say that almost all the reserves in Treaty No. 5 are under wood, brush, muskegs, rock and water.

Trusting that the tabular statement and these few remarks may be satisfactory to the Department.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. MACKAY,

*Indian Agent.*