

paid. The prospects for the coming crop are very good, and it will, I trust, exceed that of last year, as pretty nearly every garden has been enlarged this year.

I did not vaccinate here as the weather was very unfavourable owing to recent rains. Having now completed my labor at this reserve, I left there for Ebb and Flow Lake on the evening of the 10th, but the wind becoming again unfavourable, we had to camp on the island opposite the reserve after travelling some six miles. Mr. Inspector McColl joined us in the evening and spent the night with us, after despatching a messenger to the reserve to invite the chief and councillors to meet him.

They arrived next morning accompanied by the majority of the band, and an open air meeting was held.

The question of the school house was, of course, the most important discussed and resulted in a very satisfactory conclusion. Aware, as Mr. McColl was, of the division between the chief and a portion of the band, and the first councillor and the other portion of the band residing at Dog Creek, as to the proper site for the final erection of the Government school house; he proposed to them that it should be built exactly half way between Dog Creek and the present site, and that each portion of the divided band should build the road on each side, meeting exactly at the spot chosen where they would unite to build and finish the school house without any more delay or dissension.

The proposal was unanimously accepted by the band, and thus was this long vexed question settled satisfactorily. The meeting being now ended we left the reserve and reached Manitoba Village at 11 p.m. The wind having increased in fury on the following morning, and finding it impossible to use my boat, I consulted Mr. McColl and by his advice went alone by canoe, leaving instructions to my crew to follow me. The journey to the reserve was a very dangerous one owing to the heavy sea, but at 2 p.m. I succeeded in landing at

#### *Ebb and Flow Lake Reserve.*

After the distribution of provisions and the payment of annuity money, together with all the work connected with this, was over, I held a general meeting of the band, and judging from the fact that they only asked for a brush plow, it is evident that the Indians of this band are contented with what the Government has done for them. They were also thankful for the vaccination which I performed on them, being aware of the fatal effects of small pox. From personal inspection of their gardens, I judge that they were enlarged to the extent of two acres and a-half, but they have not sown all their broken land, as seed potatoes were somewhat scarce this year. Fish being scarce also, they have not killed as many as usual, while the total value of fur taken is also considerably less than last year, owing to there being no rats to kill.

The school was kept open and attended pretty regularly during the scholastic year, and although fair progress is apparent, yet, owing to the illness of Mrs. Asham, the teacher, the children have not advanced as much as would have been the case if they had the benefit of her tuition during the whole year. However, Mrs. Asham will again assume her duties after the vacation is over, and from the energy and devotion she brings in her work, I am confident that my next report of this school will be in every way a most satisfactory one.

Having finished my duties at Ebb and Flow Lake, I started for Fairford Reserve, and although the wind kept annoyingly unfavorable, I succeeded in reaching my destination at the appointed date.

#### *Fairford.*

It gives me much pleasure to write about the Indians of this reserve, as year by year and step by step they advance steadily in the paths of civilization. As you will see by the tabular statement, their crop is greatly in excess of that of last year.