

"Northcote" told me he remembered when they were mere streams. The shallow, marshy lakes through which they run are now being filled up by the fluvial deposit of the Saskatchewan, and which may, in future, be beautiful arable prairie land, when the river has excavated by its sweeping current a channel of sufficient depth.

AT CUMBERLAND.

A little before noon on Wednesday, 9th of August, we reached Cumberland House, a station of the Hudson's Bay Company on Cumberland Island, to the south of Cumberland or Pine Island Lake, about 6 miles to the north-east of the main Saskatchewan, from which it is reached by ascending the Big Stone River, one of the outlets of Cumberland Lake.

We camped on the Island, and in the afternoon of the day of our arrival, I met the Chief, two Councillors, with some of the land in council.

The Chief expressed his pleasure at finding that the Queen took such an interest in the welfare of her Indian children and was prepared to fulfil her promises in giving them land to live upon.

He has often presented the petition of his people to get land suitable, and had never yet obtained it his people were poor, very poor, often starving, they had, two years ago, to get relief from the Hudson's Bay Company.

Last year the supply of fish in the lake ceased almost entirely, the crops on account of high water were injured and were generally a failure.

The land, also, in this part of the country is utterly incapable of supplying the means of existence, we cannot plough it on account of the great stones, and the small stones in many places are so many that we strike them at every stroke of the hoe, some is all stone, There is very little hay in our country, in fact our country is covered with wood, stones and muskegs, no one could live here without means, neither he or his people wanted to remain here, all trusted in the goodness of the Grand Mother (the Queen) to fulfil all her promises i.e. to procure good land for them so that they might be able to till it and not starve and so her poor Red children might be happy.

His people were now scattered on different islands only cultivating a small garden here and there.

Inspection and Survey.

The same evening, I inspected the island on which we were encamped, and considering that one or two of the Indians or Half-Breeds who take Treaty were resident on the Island and that there was some unoccupied land that might be given to Indians, I, on the following day, began the survey of it.

I also visited an island to the north-eastward of Cumberland Island which I named Chief's Island, on which the Chief, a Councillor and a number of the Band reside,—with a lay reader and the Revd. Mr. Davis as school teacher.

There are about 20 houses, a small church used as a school house with a number of gardens on the island in which potatoes, turnips and some other vegetables were growing.

The councillor had a patch of wheat about ten yards square, it was nearly ripe at the time, the heads not large but the wheat good and full.

Understanding that there was a number of the Band who did not desire to leave the Cumberland Reserve, I continued the survey of Cumberland Island.

Further Consultation.

On Monday, 14th August, the chief having collected his Indians from the islands requested me to meet him in council with as many of the Band as he had gathered together. Complying with his request, they all assembled at my tent and informed me that they had had a meeting amongst themselves and that they had come to the conclusion that they would have no Reserve laid out in this section.

He then asked me if he could have 50 miles square laid out for himself and Band.