

ASSABASKASHING AGENCY,  
LAKE OF THE WOODS,  
September 7th, 1880.

The Honorable  
The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit, for your information, the following report on the Indians under my supervision, also a tabular statement.

The tabular statement I have filled up as far as information I have received will allow me to do. With regard to the measurement of cultivated lands on the Indian reserves, I find it impossible to give a correct account, as I have not the chance of seeing the improvements the Indians do, and have to be guided by information received, another thing, I do not feel competent to measure land, or to give a correct valuation.

The Indians of Lake of the Woods, as well as those of Shoal Lake, have made very little improvement in cultivating new land, since my last report.

The Rat Portage Indians have cultivated some land in addition to their old farms. With the exception of a few families, all plant potatoes, and some Indian corn; they would do better if they had some person to show them how to work their agricultural implements.

The Islington band of Indians are the most industrious under my supervision; they have cultivated a good deal of new ground in addition to their old farms. This band were supplied, from Winnipeg in May last, with twenty-five bushels each of wheat and barley for seed, but the seed came too late for sowing, so, on that account, a good deal of their lands are lying idle.

Last summer, 1879, the crops of all the bands under my supervision, such as potatoes and Indian corn, were good. Like years before, the potatoes intended for seed, that were secured in pits for safety, were more or less destroyed by frost; in consequence the seed planted this season was smaller than was intended to be used; what has been planted promises by appearance to produce a good crop.

The Islington band of Indians numbers 159 souls: 29 are Pagans, 130 profess Christianity (Church of England). They want a school and farming instructor to be sent to them as soon as possible. There is a school-house belonging to the minister of the place, which they say they will hire to be used as a school-house in the meantime, while building a new one of their own; they want their children to be taught to read, write, and other useful knowledge, and above all Christianity; they have a church partly paid for by them, and partly by the Missionary Society. They also wish that their reserves should be surveyed, they want their reserve in three different places.

The Rat Portage band numbers 154 souls; 128 are Pagans, and 26 profess Christianity, of various denominations. They wish to have a school teacher to teach their children. Their reserve is divided into three equal parts, a certain number of them live in each of these parts, in consequence they have not decided where they will build the school-house.

The ten bands of Indians of the Lake of the Woods, proper, and Shoal Lake, number 647 souls, all Pagans; they have not come to any decision with regard of building school-houses, they would rather the Department would get them built for them. Those along the frontier are hard to be convinced of anything we tell them, they hear so many stories, from evil-principled people as to how much better the United States Government treat their treaty Indians.

The Rat Portage band of Indians are dissatisfied with the manner in which two blocks, A and C, of their reserves were laid out last year. Block A, they say, they wish it was more to the W. N. West, it would give them more land fit for farming and for hay purposes; whereas, where it is laid out, they are deprived of both on account of rock. In block C the greatest part is rock, unfit for any purpose. They say that a good deal of their cultivated lands and houses were left outside, and they have no hay