

for himself, wife and four children, together with \$30 alleged arrears due him for six persons in 1876. He never belonged to this band, nor claimed to be a member thereof, yet in 1879 the agent admitted him as a new entry upon the pay-sheets, and granted him arrears for 1876. Tourdin being a half-breed, and not belonging to any particular band of Indians within the meaning of the Act, is clearly not entitled to any annuity. The fact of his being married to an Indian woman does not, according to my interpretation of the Act, seize him or his children of any right to annual payments from the Crown. The woman's status is not impaired so far as her annuity is concerned, but no title accrues to the half-breed or non-treaty Indian who may marry her. If any claim as an Indian can be brought forward upon Tourdin's behalf, it must be based upon his connection with the Isle à la Cross Indians, with whom no treaty exists. In either case, if my view be correct the Department is absolutely free from any responsibility concerning him. Another case, that of Peter Moran, exhibits precisely the same conditions, except that Moran was not married until 1879, and does not appear in the pay-sheets until this year. I have adverted to these circumstances because of their apparently intrinsic importance in the future. The establishment of precedents of this nature may result in augmenting, *ad infinitum*, the number of annuitants, for thousands of others in the far distant north have equal claims with those upon the generosity of the Government.

The Indians embraced within this agency are more intelligent and prosperous than those visited elsewhere. Their gardens are larger and better cultivated, their houses more comfortable and better furnished, and their schools more numerous and better conducted. Frequent complaints were made that salaries of teachers were not regularly received, and consequently the schools in many instances were closed. Blank returns were but recently supplied, and informalities in making out reports often occurred. The delay occasioned in sending them back to distant places for correction caused considerable inconvenience, and militated materially against the successful operation of the schools in remote districts.

I made preliminary arrangements, according to instructions, with the different officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, at the outside posts, for the supplying of seed potatoes next spring to the Indians of Treaties 2 and 5. This will ensure early delivery, and save expensive freights to those distant points.

A widow named Anewees drew her annuity at Broken Head River from 1871 to date, and also at Dog Head from 1875 to 1879 inclusive, but having been detected this year payment was refused at the latter place, and I have requested the acting-superintendent to instruct the agent to retain the amount of twenty-five dollars so overdrawn, from her subsequent payments, and to refund the same.

The Island Band of Indians, lost, from various causes, nearly all the cattle supplied them. The councillor at Wanipkawisibbi is desirous of having his reserve immediately surveyed, as lumbermen are engaged in timber-cutting in its vicinity and he is apprehensive of their encroachment upon it.

Thick-foot expressed his gratitude, on behalf of himself and people, for having been granted a change of reserve from Dog Head to Loon Straits, and said he felt as if he now was newly born, and all the strength of youth come back once more.

Ten families who removed from Norway House to Fisher River, about a year ago, complain that they were refused payment, to either themselves or representatives, only at the former place, and request that they be recognized in future as part of the latter band.

The Indians at Norway House earnestly entreat that an independent band be created there, as their number exceeding six hundred persons are virtually without any one to look after their affairs, as their nominal chief is living one hundred and fifty miles away. They also ask for some farming and hay lands on Pine River, about twelve or fifteen miles to the north-west of their present reserve, in order to have sufficient land for cultivation. The school is vacant, and they request that a qualified teacher be sent them without delay, as their children are growing up in ignorance.