

preventing any of them from proceeding to their reservations as they had promised before leaving in the spring on their hunt south. On the 17th September "Pie-a-pot" with a large number of his followers reached Fort Walsh. In a council which I had with the chiefs immediately after "Pie-a-pot's" return he communicated certain grievances in connection with their reception, which prevented him from remaining on his reserve, although with the reserve itself he appeared perfectly satisfied. "Pie-a-pot" received the sympathy of the other chiefs who were in no manner anxious to go northward, it was then found utterly impossible to effect any movement of the Indians who had come from the south, they accepting "Pie-a-pot's" grievances as stated by himself, and embodying their own also. For some considerable time they made no demand for aid from the Government, but as the cold weather came on, being very poorly clad, and insufficiently supplied with food, they experienced much hardship from exposure and starvation. It was then that they requested me to transmit to you their message to the effect that "Pie-a-pot" wished to settle on the reserve given him by Mr. Wadsworth last summer. "Little Pine" who is a relation of "Pie-a-pot's" to settle alongside of him, "Lucky man" and "Front man" wanted their reserves at Big Lake about thirty miles east of Fort Walsh. All wanted to receive their annuity money to enable them to make their winter Buffalo hunt. "Big Bear" expressed a wish to accept the treaty, and afterwards to go north to Fort Pitt, which is the section of country to which he belongs. Although I did not consider that the requests of the Indians as to reservations should be accorded to, I nevertheless recommended the Indians receiving some considerations as regards their payments and aid in provisions, inasmuch as I foresaw if no aid was accorded them, they would starve, and in a starving condition might have attempted to commit depredations.

A Report of the acute sufferings of these Indians was embodied in a Report by Surgeon Jukes forwarded to you in October last.

The final result was that Indian Agent McDonald, from Treaty 4, Qu'Appelle, was ordered to proceed to Fort Walsh, and pay the Indians their annuities, which he did. Much as I regret our having been forced to have recourse to such an alternative, it was nevertheless unavoidable. I at one time contemplated that all the Indians would have been paid on new reservations northward from Fort Walsh. Notwithstanding the fact that every anticipation in this respect was not verified, it is still an undoubted fact that much progress was made towards settling the Indians on their reservations, in support of this statement it will be remembered that last year some five thousand Indians had to be paid at Fort Walsh, this year not more than two thousand were paid.

I must not omit to mention that all the Indians who were sent to Battleford remained upon their reservations, and I understand have become satisfactorily settled there. Superintendent Herchmer, commanding at Battleford, in his Report, says: "The Indians are progressing well, thanks to the able management of Mr. Reed."

I would call your attention to the fact that in a letter of the 20th May last, I impressed upon the Government the importance of the Indians being well received in the north, also the fulfilment of all treaty obligations, reminding you at the time, the mode of life would be different to that to which the Indians had been accustomed to, for this reason I considered some little allowance should be made, and the treatment the Indians received, particularly on arrival, should be kind. I then went on to say that if these recommendations were not acted upon, I felt that I would not be far astray in predicting a general stampede southward, also that should this once occur, the final settlement of the Indians on allotted reservations would be materially affected.

The failure of the Indian Department to settle "Pie-a-pot" on his reservation has doubtless been explained in communications to you by their own officials.

Relating to my allusions to the promises made by "Big Bear" to accept the treaty, I have to report that during my recent stay at Fort Walsh in the beginning of the present month, "Big Bear" expressed his desire to make an adhesion to treaty six.