

The Church of England has a church, a day and boarding school with ten scholars. It is situated about two miles below the Hudson's Bay post on the bank of the river and is in charge of the Rev. Mr. Scott, assisted by another clergyman.

The Roman Catholic mission which is situated a quarter of a mile above Vermillion is managed by Father Jaussard, assisted by Father Dupin and two lay brothers, they have a school with four girls and two boys as day scholars, thirteen girls and twenty boys as boarders. They cultivate thirty acres and grow potatoes and other vegetables, also barley and wheat successfully, have a grist-mill which grinds about eighty bags of wheat per annum, and quite a collection of farm implements, including wagons, &c. The present church being too small for the congregation is to be enlarged, and the material to build one 55 x 22 is on the ground.

On the opposite or north bank two traders have located, namely, F. Brick and Twelve-Foot Davis, an American. The Lawrence Bros. have separate farms of about 130 acres each under cultivation, only having lost one crop during the last seventeen years. I procured samples of wheat, barley and oats which I handed to you. E. J. Lawrence owns a grist and saw-mill with a twelve horse power engine, also a steam thrasher, a self binder, gung ploughs and other farm implements.

The country is wooded with small timber, and the open places or patches of prairie are about sufficient for the present inhabitants. The soil is reported good, plenty of hay can be made in the immediate vicinity. Being beyond the large fisheries, and moose very plentiful, the inhabitants live principally on them, with other game and a limited amount of domestic cattle, though of inferior grade, probably caused by in and in breeding, but they are much valued and their owners appeared ambitious to raise fair sized herds.

This is about the centre of the range of the Beaver Indians, who are more like the Wood Crees than the northern or fishing tribes. I noticed the half-breeds of this settlement, and continuing up the river, were more intelligent and civilized than those in the lake districts. Here Sergeant Hetherington laid information against Isaac Gagnon, Dan Carey, Anedie (Indian) and Pruden Demore, also an Indian lad named Alfred Atlaw (who had just completed his education at the Church of England Mission School). The boy was allowed to go under suspended sentence. The others were all convicted and fined \$25 each. Later on I learned that Carey had, through his carelessness, narrowly escaped poisoning a number of Indians, but succeeded in killing five of their hunting dogs, thereby obliging the Indians to draw in their sleds containing their furs and other belongings, also that Gagnon had distributed 120 poisoned baits along the river bank.

I beg here to mention the satisfactory and zealous manner in which Sergeant Hetherington investigated and prosecuted these cases, and attach his report *re* the sudden death of one Bertrand.

It was my intention to comply with the instructions of the commissioner, if possible, to proceed from this point via Trout Lake and Wapiscaw and thence along the Athabasca. I found this impracticable, the country being nearly unknown, but supposed to be through heavy bush and muskeg. I could not obtain a guide and was obliged to change my proposed route to that by Lesser Slave Lake.

I received at Vermillion information that one Clement Paul was setting out poison by which Indian dogs had been destroyed, and having secured a guide proceeded on the 16th March towards his location. After travelling for four days through the woods towards Keg River and in the vicinity of Head Mountain I found that he was visiting his line of traps along the Hay River about 10 days' journey off, and had already been two days on the way. I could not obtain dog feed, and therefore did not follow him, information was laid and later on he can be dealt with.

This trip, westward, and in the vicinity of the Peace River was mostly through burnt and fallen timber, which evidently had been of good quality. The soil is reported good. The approach to the river is very steep. The climate is reported milder than lower down, and the nearer the Rocky Mountains the milder it is said to be.

We did not experience a change until the 23rd of March, when we encountered a Chinook wind which reminded me of my home at Fort Macleod. The 20th March we crossed the Peace River at Buffalo River point, where there are two families, one of