

well as a tool chest. He complained of the restrictions prohibiting the Indians from fishing on the Little Saskatchewan River, whereas speculators from Winnipeg had been scooping and dragging whitefish by thousands daily during the fall out of those favored feeding localities resorted to by shoals of this finny tribe before they ascend to the upper lakes and rivers to spawn. Upon making enquiries of Mr. Martineau afterwards, he informed me that he had forbidden the Indians of this or any other district from fishing on this river, and that he also notified other parties to the same effect, but that one David Clarke contrary, to these instructions, had been extensively engaged in fishing there for the past two seasons. Last year Mr. Martineau seized 30,000 whitefish found in possession of this party, but they were afterwards released by the Superintendent of fisheries in Winnipeg, who gave authority to this party to engage in fishing there this year again, contrary to the remonstrances of the Indian agent against effectually cutting off the supply of whitefish from the upper lakes and rivers, by the wholesale destruction of them at the only gateway to those waters, and thus depriving the settlers and Indians of those districts of the principal source of their living. I highly approve of Mr. Martineau's action in this matter, and would respectfully recommend that his regulations regarding these fisheries be sustained by the Department, and that no one be permitted on any pretence whatever to trespass on the fisheries in question in future, or else the Government will have to feed those Indians to keep them from starving.

Lake St. Martin.

I started for this reserve on the 3rd of October and arrived there on the same day. Francis Storr has been teaching school during the year. He has twenty-three names on his register, but owing to irregular attendance his average was only about eight pupils. He is very deficient in qualification, but as competent teachers are not always available, he is perhaps the best, at present, that could be obtained for that school, which is kept in a private dwelling. These Indians have sixteen houses, seven stables, four acres under cultivation, four horses, eighteen head of cattle, 200 bushels of potatoes, and thirty-three tons of hay. The chief complained that the quantity of twine, ammunition and provisions received this year was less than in former years. The Agent purchased another cow with David Marsden's annuity, to replace the one killed by the band several years ago, at his suggestion. Upon receiving their annuities last summer, a subscription was got up by the members of the band for Marsden, to reimburse him for their share of the value of the cow, as they were all accomplices in the killing of the other one. The action of the Department in deposing David Marsden from the councillorship of the band and in withholding his annuity from him until it amounted to a sufficient sum to purchase another animal, had a most salutary effect, not only on this band, but also on others, in preventing similar occurrences. One of their oxen being old, lame and worthless for working, the Agent made satisfactory arrangements to have him exchanged with William Anderson for a young animal.

Little Saskatchewan.

I started for this reserve in the afternoon of the 3rd October and arrived there at night. This band makes loud complaints against David Clarke for his wholesale traffic in fish. They informed me that he then made three trips with his steamboat, between the fisheries in question and Winnipeg, loaded with whitefish salted in barrels; the last time having a barge loaded also with the same. This reserve is on the north-west shore of Lake St. Martin and is probably the best in the district. The Indians are perfectly satisfied with it. They have 11 houses, 5 stables, 7 acres under cultivation, 12 head of cattle, 200 bushels of potatoes and 37 tons of hay. A school-house 20 by 20 feet in size, is in the course of erection, but the school is held at present in the chief's dwelling house which he has given temporarily for that purpose. The teacher, Benjamin Thom, is very deficient in education and lacks that energy and sincerity of purpose so indispensable in developing the youthful mind. His own