

MANITOBA SUPERINTENDENCY,
WINNIPEG, 25th November, 1880.

The Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to report to you that, in accordance with instructions received from the Department of Indian Affairs, through the Deputy Superintendent-General, and also through Mr. Commissioner Dewdney, I started on the 21st of May last for Prince Arthur's Landing, *via* Duluth, on a tour of inspection of the different Indian Agencies embraced within this Superintendency, and returned to Winnipeg on the 26th ultimo, having visited the eight Agencies, and mostly all of the sixty bands under my supervision, scattered over one hundred reservations from Savanne on Lac des Mille Lacs to Cumberland, on the Saskatchewan, and from Cross Lake, on Nelson River, to the southern boundary of this Province; and travelled, accompanied by three voyagers, thousands of miles over treacherous lakes and dangerous rapids, in a fragile birch canoe, which had to be carried, together with provisions and camp equipment, across seventy-five rocky and marshy portages, averaging from a few rods to nearly five miles in length. During the whole time occupied in accomplishing this laborious and perilous trip, not a single day did I lay over in consequence of stormy weather encountered on the way.

A general reference to the various duties performed on my official tour will not, I apprehend, be considered inopportune. On arriving at the several Agencies, the books and vouchers for distributions made were critically examined, as well as the provisions, implements and other supplies on hand, to ascertain if they corresponded in regard to quantities and qualities with those supplies forwarded by the Department, as shown by the records and samples at the Indian Office in Winnipeg. I also made a thorough inspection of the offices and storehouses at the Agencies, to see if the requisite accommodations were available for the transaction of official business, and for the storage of Indian supplies. I went to the reserves and endeavored to impress upon the Indians the necessity of abandoning their nomadic habits, and of devoting their undivided attention to the cultivation of their lands and to the education of their children, in order that they might become as prosperous and self-supporting as other subjects of the Queen. I visited their houses and gardens to ascertain, from personal observation, what advancement in agriculture and improvement in buildings had been made since my former visit in 1878. I inspected all the schools in operation, noted what progress in learning had been made by the pupils; examined the registers, as to the number and regularity of attendance, and made careful enquiries concerning the efficiency of teachers employed, and the interest they manifested in their work. I also made enquiries as to whether the agents had been discharging their duties properly, and closely investigated all complaints made against them. In addition to the information requested to be furnished the Department with regard to census, progress in agriculture, industries pursued, &c., &c., I have taken careful statistics of the number in each band able to speak or read in English or French, or read in Ojibbeway or Cree; and likewise of those who embraced Christianity, as well as the denominations to which they respectively belong, so that their advancement in civilization may be accurately determined at a glance on reference to the tabular statement and supplement attached, herewith enclosed. Chiefs and councillors were frequently charged with partiality in the distributions of provisions and other supplies, and upon investigating these accusations, and becoming satisfied of their truthfulness, I pointed out to them from the Indian Act that, unless they dealt honestly with each other, they were liable to be removed from their positions in the bands. This had invariably the desired effect, for they have a wholesome dread of dismissal.

Some complaints were made by Indians that the stipulations of treaties had not been fully carried out to them, but complaints of this nature were comparatively few this year, the majority of which originating from their extravagant interpretations of