

one pigs, 100 bushels of corn, seventy-five of wheat, thirty-five of barley, and 6,000 of potatoes. The number of fish taken and game caught this year was immense. They obtain employment at the different saw-mills in operation in the neighborhood. There are three Mission schools on the reserve, one Roman Catholic, and two Episcopal, but only two of them are supported by the Government. The Roman Catholic school is ably conducted by Fathers Dupont and Madore. The former teaches French in the afternoons, and the latter English in the forenoons. Father Dupont wishes to be supplied with some French reading books for his pupils. They have an average attendance of twenty-six pupils. The branches taught are reading, spelling, arithmetic, grammar, geography, Canadian history, singing and the catechism; five pupils are reading in the third book, ten in the second, eight in the first, and twelve are learning their letters; eighteen are studying in the elementary rules of arithmetic, four are in geography, seven in grammar and three in history. The Mission school-house is 25 by 28 feet, the manse 28 by 30 feet and the Chapel 30 by 64 feet. They are all painted and tastefully finished. Father Dupont wants to know whether there is any objection to the cutting of a winter road through the reserve towards the Red River Settlement for the convenience of Indians and other parties, as it would shorten the distances very materially to the settlement. The other Mission schools had not been re-opened since the holidays when I visited the reserve, but the Rev. Mr. Bruce informed me that two teachers, John Henderson and Samuel Henderson, whom he engaged, were conducting the Episcopal schools. The former has twenty-six names on the register and the latter twenty-four. The one has pupils in different reading-classes from the alphabet up to the fourth book; and the other from the second to the third reader. These schools are kept near the extreme limits of the reserve in order to accommodate the children in those localities. The 16 families living near the lower end of the reserve are building a school-house there and ask assistance from the Government for its completion, as only one child from that locality ever attended school; the scholars would have to travel in going to the Protestant school, about four miles up the river. After the payments were finished the agent, his assistant, and the constable camped in the evening near the mouth of the river. Having been informed that a desperate effort was about to be made, by a party of whiskey traders, to sell liquor to the Indians, they sent one of their voyageurs across the river, and he returned with a bottle of whiskey which he had purchased from an Indian named Thomas Flett, an accomplice of those vampires. The Agent had this Indian arrested but the traders could not be identified, so they were allowed to escape. Their boat, however, having 5 gallons of whiskey in it was seized and confiscated. Upon their return to the Indian portage afterwards they found 15 gallons and 50 bottles of whiskey there which they destroyed. About 100 bottles of whiskey were sold the Indians after the agent left the reserve, but if it were not for the promptness and energy displayed by the Agent and his assistant, Mr. Leveque the reserve would not only be flooded with whiskey by those desperadoes, but the Indians would be robbed of nearly all the annuities they received. I left 25 points of vaccine matter with Revd. Father Dupont, and 25 points with Revd. Mr. Bruce who kindly agreed to vaccinate the Indians and report to me the effect upon them. The number of annuitants in 1877 was 430, and the number this year was 483, an increase of 53 in 7 years, making a total decrease of annuitants in this agency of 1046, on account of irregularities already referred to. The tabular statement is most accurate and gives the fullest details on every particular heading in it. The payments were most carefully and correctly made. The pay-sheets which were made out by Mr. Leveque, of this office, are models of neatness of execution, giving the minutest and most definite information as to the causes of increase or decrease in numbers in families, as to whom the payments were made, as to the amounts of arrears still due to the different Indians, and as to other matters of interest to the Department.

THE AGENCY OF MR. MCKAY.

Black River.

I left for this reserve on the morning of the 14th of August and arrived at the Indian village at noon. The chief, on behalf of his band, asked for some carpenter's