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NOTE: This document lists various Cree bands and includes excerpts from annual reports for the period 1876-1924.

Pass Agency

1876 - p. XLVII

The Pass and Cumberland bands have appointed chiefs, but the Moose Lake band is not organized. Part of the Moose band

at Cedar River wished to be recognized as separate. A new treaty is now made with these Indians. These was a mission at the Pass and school house. These Indians objected to treaty because they had information that the Plains Indians at Carlton and elsewhere had received better terms. The Grand Rapids, Pass and Cumberland are qualified to see the government grant for school houses. At the Pass each family is to see 160 acres. The Moose Lake Indians become two bands. Cumberland widely scattered and is difficult to get them on a reserve.

- 1877 - p. 16 Under treaty #5 Beardy is listed as chief of the band at Grand Rapids on the Saskatchewan.
- 1879 - p. 61 According to the treaty cattle were delivered at the Pass, Moose Lake and Cumberland; also provisions of fish line, ammunition, farming implements were supplied to the same.
- 1879 - p. 74 The Grand Rapids band were disappointed in not receiving their cattle. There were no houses on the reserve. Thus there was no place for the agent to live. The agent urges the Indians to begin farming; they complain that without oxen they must hitch themselves to the plow. This they say is too difficult. Having no implements, they were obliged to use sticks to dig up the ground for potatoes. Nevertheless, they raised a fair crop. Some Indians from Nelson River moved into the vicinity and claimed annuities.
- 1884 - p. 127 No resident agent. The chief requested that the treaty be observed. The school house incomplete; no teacher. Doubtful if any teacher will accept this position. Impossible to find any contractor to undertake construction of agency buildings. Some Indians have gardens.
- Cumberland reserve - Indians discouraged; have little food; ask that a new reserve be given them to prevent starvation.
Moose Lake - Cattle all die. 9 houses built; school house not complete. Indians try gardening.
Grand Rapids - Crops better here than elsewhere. School house incomplete. This is the only band which has excellent fisheries nearby. Nevertheless, every

winter clamor for assistance.

1885 - p. 63

Agent visits these reserves to pay annuities.
Moose Lake - A poor place for farming, but excellent for fishing. Indians not provided with nets. Gardens poor.
Pass Band - The largest reserve - gardens scattered over a large area. Crops a failure. Vaccinated many children. Agent visits these reserves in the autumn to arrange for the sick and the poor. Crops at Grand Rapids good. Indians sell fish oil. Muskrats almost extinct. Rabbits scarce this winter so many Indians suffer from hunger. Indians advised to scatter in the winter. Messengers arrive calling for relief. One Indian arrested for beating his wife. Agent delivers a lecture in Cree. News of the rebellion reaches here, but the Indians remain loyal and many fled into the mountains for safety. No missionary has been here for 40 years. Instruction given in agriculture. These Indians nominally Christian. Some can read in their own language. They are fond of music. Few pagans and these perfectly harmless. In the absence of tobacco many Indians smoke weed "which seems to me very injurious." Very unclean and untidy; living in small miserable houses. Suffering during winter extreme.

1886 - p. 70

Crops better than last year. Some improvement in housing. Schools opened. Ammunition and fish lines issued; also cattle and instruction given for their keep. Oxen delivered; also 2 cows. Farm tools issued. The school at Cumberland well attended. Did not visit Pass Mountain.
Shoal Lake - No success in farming though possessing ox and implements they consider the work too hard.
Cumberland - Fishing practically a failure, but sufficient food for the year.
Moose - A teacher proposed to close the school for the holidays; Indians object on the ground the school belonged to them.
Shoal Lake - Indians assemble to plant crops under the direction of the agent. Same procedure at other reserves.
Instructions given in housekeeping, etc.
General - Many Indians become dissatisfied and ask to withdraw from treaty. Prospect for the winter discouraging. Indians enjoy card playing and dancing.

- 1887 - p. 83 Pass Mountains band - Visited. This band advised to raise crops as no other way to make a living seems possible. Most Indians vaccinated. In general, the Indians have been peaceful and loyal to the government.
- 1888 - p. 70 Grand Rapids band - In danger of being demoralized by drinking. School closed for lack of teacher.
Moose Lake - Successful in raising potatoes.
Pass band - Have two mills in operation. Raise potatoes, barley and wheat. The agent sows the grain. Pleased with the progress of this band. Indians requested less bacon and more fish line; also to substitute fish line for ammunition and tobacco. School well attended.
Cumberland - Potato crop good, but barley fails. Some difficulty in taking care of cattle.
Pass band - Earn a good income by working for Hudson's Bay and Steamboat Companies. When not employed they are engaged in hunting and fishing.
Red Earth - These Indians regarded as the most industrious.
General - The Indians seem pleased to hear about the Queen. Progress in agriculture slow. For 14 years they have made little progress. Live part of the year in tents. They are naturally inclined to be untidy and dirty. Notwithstanding, the tone of morality is high.
- 1889 - p. 122 A gradual failure of fishing and scarcity of furs is accompanied by increasing poverty. Indians willing to work, but no opportunity.
Grand Rapids - Cattle doing well.
Moose Lake band - The least advanced and seldom live on the reserve. Mostly pagans.
Pass band - Continues to prosper.
Cumberland - Numbers reduced by removal of halfbreeds.
Grand Rapids - Pass through hard winter.
- 1890 - p. 48 Many die of influenza.
Grand Rapids - Not progressing.
Pass Mountains - Band divided into two parts, one at Shoal Lake, one at Red Earth, who are still pagans, had made rapid advancement.
Cumberland - Now greatly reduced in numbers, many having moved to La Corne.

1891 - p. 65 The fur supply increasing.
Pass band - This band is frequently visited
by the agent and consequently profit by his
administration. The other bands are
visited rarely.
Cumberland - Still the most backward.
Largely nomadic.

1892 - p. 163 Agent complains that the Indians have no
regard for the future. Some are aware
hunting and fishing will soon be a thing of
the past. The present agent (Reader), has
been in office for 18 years. A good deal
of sickness during the year and many
deaths.
Cumberland - No school on this reserve.
Birch River - this is a halfbreed
settlement.
Pass Mountain - Practically no contact with
white people.
Red Earth - Is still prospering. No
schools.

 Pass band - Poor return from hunting.
School prospering.
Moose Lake - A number are still pagan.
Mostly fishers and hunters. There has been
no school for several years.
General - An extra supply of cattle is to
be issued.

1893 - p. 68 The country covered by this agency is
largely water. The environment not
favorable to civilization. Muskrats are
the chief interest of these Indians.
Moose Lake - Desire a new location.
Hunting interferes with farming. Many
women now taught to knit.
Red Earth - Has many cattle and horses.
Has asked for school. Still pagan.
Grand Rapids band - Because of contact with
whites shows deterioration.

1894 - p. 191 The school teacher seemed to be the only
resident white official among these
reserves. J. Reader seems to have retired.

1895 - p. 192 J. Reader again in charge. Complains that
he cannot visit the reserves frequently
enough. Indians live mostly on muskrats,
rabbits and fishing. New dresses offered
as prizes to women having the cleanest
houses. Grasshoppers destroy the crops.

1896 - p. 126 Clothing distributed to all the bands.
Agent makes frequent visits to settle

disputes, examine the schools, etc.
Grand Rapids band - Moved to a new location. Good for fishing, but not for trapping; Indians suffer consequences.
Pass band - Had good return from fishing and hunting though the muskrat catch was poor. Pass Mountains reserve raising some cattle.
Cumberland - This band lives entirely by hunting, roaming northward. On each reservation there is a day school with some success. This year whooping cough causes many deaths.

1897 - p. 101

The name Pass derived from the Cree word. Potatoes can be raised.

Red Earth band - Mostly pagan. Live in log houses in winter. Medicine man still has control. Most of the other bands at this agency are nominal Christians.

1898 - p. 82

Many Indians employed by a fishing company. The agent is with the Pass band. This band regarded as a leader. Some Indians employed by the Hudson's Bay Co. Practically no drinking.

1899 - p. 96

These Indians seem to use tipis in summer and when travelling. Where wild grass is available some cattle are raised. Health remarkably good. The chiefs are willing to carry out instructions and work well with the agent. As a whole the Indians think little of the future and so make little progress.

1900 - p. 91

Pass band - Most of the land not adapted to agriculture. Many lakes. Railway now passes through the reserve giving some employment. Houses formerly of one room, but this year many two room houses are built. Take no interest in cattle raising. Only accustomed to raising dogs; see no reason why cattle should not take care of themselves. A few horses are used.
Red Earth band - Mostly pagan. Mixture of Plains and Swampy Cree.
Grand Rapids band - Many employed all year around in the fisheries.

1903 - p. 90

Pass band - Great improvement in housing and dress. Hunting and fishing chief occupation. Many new houses built.
Red Earth - No opportunity for this band for outside employment. Raise large crops of potatoes. Many become members of the

English Church. As a whole seem to be getting neither richer or poorer.
Moose Lake - Grass lands flooded causing loss of cattle.

1904 - p. 88

7 reserves ranging 250 miles. Country uniform - not adapted to farming. Moose, deer and fur bearing animals abound. Plenty of fish. Many houses provided with stoves, sewing machines and phonographs.

School attendance irregular. Some Indian are modern pagans.

1905 - p. 96

All Wood Cree. Considerable white blood among them. All follow the Indian mode of life, hunters and fishers. They are law abiding and have few vices. Cattle not a success. Indians keep a few cattle to please the agent. Potatoes and Indian corn can be grown here. Practically no white people in the country. Indians happy and contented. This considered a model agency. Tuberculosis and other diseases decreasing. Almost self-supporting; not particularly interested in school.

1906 - p. 87

Many of the Indians have small gardens. Most of the new houses have two rooms and shingled roofs.

1907 - p. 134

At Cedar Lake some of the houses have palisades. Many deaths from grippe. Found it impossible to teach the Indians to observe ordinary rules of health. Red Earth - Have palisade fences around their buildings. Cumberland band - Seldom live in their houses because of hunting and fishing excursions.

1908 - p. 142

These Indians not anxious to improve their condition; the agent discouraged. School attendance irregular. One Indian was convicted of drinking. Indians live entirely by hunting and fishing; the return for which fluctuates greatly.

1909 - p. 149

Moose Lake band - Builds new church.
Pass band - Own a few horses and cattle, but the grass supply is so uncertain that their herds cannot increase. Returns from trapping very good.
Shoal Lake band - Kill many moose.
Cumberland band - Live in tents during the summer and when hunting. Most of their houses merely shelters. No tendency to

settle down.

- 1911 - p. 101 Moose Lake - receive a yolk of oxen,
apparently the first issue.
- Pass band - employed as boatmen and at
other labor; wages high.
Cumberland band - No progress to report -
they seem to make a living from one year to
another with little change.
- 1912 - p. 106 Prices in furs high, Indians prosperous.
Shoal Lake band - Hunts and fishes on the
Carrot River.
- 1913 - p. 105 A high death rate among the young. Some
houses have rubber roofs.
Moose Lake band - Many children die.
Pass band - Some of the Indians have bank
accounts.
- 1914 - p. 60 All are Swampy Cree except the Red Earth
band which is mixed with Ojibway.
Cumberland band Has but few cattle. The
others have done moderately well.
- 1915 - p. 65 Houses mostly of logs, squared with axes.
Corners nicely dovetailed. Thatched roof
is now of the past. The fur market poor;
income one-third of last year.
Pass band - Sold some of their land so they
now have an income. Because of white
contact drinking is now on the increase.
The Indian is a slow thinker. A hospital
built.
- 1916 - p. 43 Pass band - Farming implements without
capital. Stock raising not a success.
Several Indians are becoming traders;
others employed by merchants. No poultry
is raised because dogs kill them.
- 1917 - p. 27 Typhoid fever at Red Earth; many die.
- 1918 - p. 34 Most Indians still prefer to eat and sleep
on the floor. Many live in tents during
the summer.
- 1919 - p. 19 Pass band - Sent 19 men to the army.
- 1920 - p. 25 Hunting and fishing still the chief
occupations. War crisis makes the Indians
prosperous.
- 1922 - p. 29 The old fashion log houses still prevail.
- 1092 - p. 21 These Indians expert guides and canoemen.

Prices of furs still high.