As a people, the various bands along the rivers and lakes were far more willing to be taught than the tenacious Reds of the vast Prairie. These are naturally indifferent to both spiritual and temporal things, and in many cases it is to be feared they are the losers, not only now but will be forever. Moreover, the Wood Indians are generally better workers being taught from childhood to develop the muscle by paddling and rowing, rather than driving and riding.

In 1883 we discontinued connection with the Church of England, but continued the work of preaching the gospel among the Indians; and from 1884 to 1896 or 7, the writer acted as Indian Agent for the Pas Agency. At the Pas proper, some 400 formed the band, while about 600 others were located on Reserves at Cumberland, Birch River, Shoal Lake, Red Earth, Moose Lake, Cedar Lake and Grand Rapids. In the early days these were often visited by canoe or boat in summer and with dogs in winter. More than once the Treaty money was fetched from Winnipeg, a journey of some 400 miles on the rivers and over Lake Winnipeg. In winter, to visit every Reserve and return to the office the distance covered was nearly 500 miles, on snow and ice, at one time camping out, at another in Indian houses and frequently housed by the hospitable Hudson Bay Company The Rebellion of 1885 gave us no serious trouble at the Pas, as the natives were loyal, and their fishing and hunting grounds afforded as a rule food and clothing for those who were able and willing to work. In Clear Water Lake, in addition to vast numbers of white and other fish, some fine trout were caught at times weighing twenty and thirty pounds. In the rivers and lakes generally in high water fish abounded and sometimes a Sturgeon was caught weighing 60 lbs. and that could be bought for 75¢. In March for some five miles down the rivermen and women would sit on the ice with merely a blanket put up for shelter at water holes angling for jack fish. This often took place even in cold weather. Sometimes in Winter a few caribou would find thier way to this neighborhood, but in the far north they were very numerous indeed and could be killed quite near the forts. Moose and other large game were plentiful so that these Indians were well