

children from Bear's Paw and Chinnequy's bands cannot attend during the summer months. Mr. McDougall said it was his intention to get a school-house built for these bands and have a teacher; I told him of the assistance given by the Government of \$100 for the purchase of glass, stone, &c., after the erection of a suitable school-house.

I inspected the manner of issuing rations here, also the books, comparing carefully the list of rations issued with the amount of flour and beef received, and found the accounts kept neatly, and as far as the figures went correct, at the same time they were to me most unsatisfactory, which forms the subject of another letter.

I examined into the matter of the large issue of the beef during March and April, and found it was caused by there being no flour on hand, therefore a double ration of beef was given, also 68 starving Crees were half-rationed during these months. A precedent for this double ration of beef when there was no flour occurred during November of last year, when the same thing was done. I will report fully upon rationing in a separate letter, therefore will not continue the subject here.

From the favourable situation of those reservations for getting out spruce and pine timber, the facilities the Bow River affords for floating it to where it may be required, also from the athletic and hardy disposition of these Indians and their willingness to work, I think the experiment might be commenced with them of getting out timber and ties for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

In the first place, they would require to have placed over them a man accustomed to Indians, who is a regular timber man, like John Delaney, the Farming Instructor at Frog Lake, they would require a regular outfit of clothing, shoe packs, blankets, axes, axe-handles, chalk-lines, &c., which would be recouped to the Government out of the sale of the timber. The Indians should be paid by the stick or foot, so many feet taken out each day securing their board, any additional to be paid for in food for their families, clothing and a little cash; the Government might also furnish them with tobacco and tea at cost price, freight added. Before undertaking it, it should be clearly ascertained if the price the Syndicate will pay delivered on the banks of Bow River near the mountain, or at any point on the Bow or South Saskatchewan, would pay the Indians through the Department for undertaking it.

These Indians have about 500 horses, of these 300 are mares. If the Farming Instructor had a work team of ordinary Canadian draught horses, but entire, such horses being procurable at two years old in Ontario at the price of gelding, by allowing these horses to serve these Indian mares, in a short time the Indians would get into a breed of horses that would be saleable at good prices.

I throw out the above suggestions, as I think, from the character of the soil upon these reservations, the Indians will require to make money in other ways than farming in order to become self-supporting.

I engaged a young man from the County of York, Ontario, named Mulholland, for one month at \$35 and rations, to work under Mr. McDougall in assisting to put in the crops for the Indians on the south side of the river.

Before I left David McDougall informed me that unless he was allowed rations in addition to his present salary of \$75 per month, he could not continue to act as Instructor; I told him that as the arrangement he had entered into had been made with you I would take no action in the matter, but would bring the matter before you.

INDIAN OFFICE, TREATY No. 7,
FORT McACLEOD, 4th August, 1881.

SIR,—I have the honor to report that in consequence of the difficulty of securing men to work on the reserves and the scarcity of tools to give the Indians to work with, very little has been done during the past month.

At the Blackfoot Crossing Mr. Norrish, who, as I have already reported to you, sent in his resignation at the beginning of July, got rid of his last man about that date, on the grounds that he was intriguing with the Indians against him. I could not replace Norrish at the time, but have now sent Mr. John Lauder to take charge