

During my journey of inspection through the different reserves of this district, I noted with pleasure the friendly feeling that existed between the agent and his Indians; how they looked up to him for advice, and the intimate knowledge he possessed of both their business and family affairs, and of all matters relating to the Departmental business of his agency. Leaving the remainder of this district to be visited on my return from the west, in the autumn, I next proceeded to Treaty 7, and commenced my inspection at

The Sarcee Reserve.

I was accompanied to this reserve by the sub-agent, Mr. Begg, and upon a subsequent visit, some weeks later, by Mr. Agent Pocklington. I took an inventory of the supplies, implements, tools, live stock, &c., audited and balanced the books, finding the entries of receipts to agree with the agent's books. Mr. Brown is the acting instructor. Although a larger area of land than usual was planted this year on this reserve and the crops promised well, I was not favorably impressed with the industry of the Indians. The instructor has made a move in the right direction by breaking land at some distance from their present location for a portion of the band. By removing them from the direct influence of the chief, which he exercises in a manner inimical both to their interests and that of the Department, he may probably be able to get some of them to exert themselves for the support of their families. Some lodges were still at Calgary, the inmates returning regularly, on ration mornings, for their supply of beef and flour. I attended the issue of rations upon three different occasions, weighing and checking the issues both of beef and flour. I was not satisfied with the system of averaging the "offal" at thirty-five pounds each animal, and gave orders that in future it was to be collected, weighed and entered in the books at its actual weight. I examined the supplies, and found them equal to the requirements of the contracts. There were ninety-seven acres in crop this year.

Stony Indians, Morley

In company with the agent and sub-agent I visited this reserve on the 12th of August. We found very few Indians at home. I took an inventory of the flour, bacon, implements and tools in the storehouse, and examined the books of the reserve, which are now in charge of the sub-agent. The flour (two hundred and one sacks) tallied nearly with the balance shown by the books. The actual quantity of bacon on hand was two thousand five hundred and thirty-six pounds, instead of one thousand seven hundred and sixty-two pounds, as shown by the books. I have great confidence that the new system adopted this summer, with these Indians, will ultimately result to their advantage, and, being christianized, they will, if driven by hard times, apply to the Department for food instead of resorting, as is alleged against them, to the illegal and criminal course of killing cattle. Some plan will, no doubt, be arrived at by the Department, whereby those of them who desire to farm can be accommodated with a reserve in a part of the country where agriculture can be carried on successfully; but until this is done the present system should, in my opinion, be continued. No regular round-up of their cattle herd has been made for several years. It was the intention of the agent to have one this autumn, if the ranchers could be induced to take part in it. I am, therefore, unable to report its condition, but the portions of the herd that I saw, looked well.

The School and Orphanage,

under the auspices of the Methodist Church, was closed for the summer holidays, and I did not have the satisfaction of inspecting it. I learned from the Rev. John McDougall, that it was in a fairly prosperous condition. The Indians have been, this season, so little upon their reserves, that many children were unable to attend school.