

The agent for the bands and reserves in this agency reports that "the constant cry is for more agricultural implements; and many reapers, mowers and waggons are being acquired whenever an opportunity offers."

The population of the bands in the Birtle agency is about two thousand three hundred and thirty souls. These Indians occupy two hundred and sixty-two dwellings, own one hundred and twenty-two barns and stables, have one thousand five hundred and eighteen acres under tillage, of which three hundred and twenty-six acres were newly broken this year; have in use one thousand three hundred and fifty-seven implements, and one thousand and eighty-three cattle and other live stock. They raised fourteen thousand four hundred and ninety-five bushels of produce and cut two thousand and sixty tons of hay. The value of the fish and furs captured by them is estimated at \$23,180.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA.

In consequence of a very serious accident which befel the Indian Reserve Commissioner at the time he was about to enter on his duties in the field, and by which he has been confined to the house for several months, the work of allotting reserves to the Indian bands of this Province was not resumed this season. Two surveying parties have, however, been engaged in running the boundaries of some of the reserves already assigned the Indians, and as the work of allotting the reserves had been pushed far in advance of the surveys, the temporary suspension of the former work, were it not for the disappointment occasioned thereby to the Indians, who are naturally anxious to have their reserves thus far, defined, would not be of material consequence. It is hoped, however, that the resumption of the work early in the ensuing spring will dissipate any uneasiness or impatience which its temporary suspension may have engendered in the minds of the Indians.

The provisions of the law prohibiting the celebration of "potlach" feasts and "tamanawa" dances, which came into force on the 1st January, 1885, met, as was to be expected, with considerable opposition at some points. The Indians will, however, doubtless, gradually cease to oppose the same, and as the celebration of these heathen observances is discontinued, and they become more enlightened, they will regard their abolishment as beneficial, instead of being, as some of them now think, an injury to them.

The Indians of this Province are apparently making good use of the lands allotted to them. Considerable quantities of produce are raised from the arable land, and the herds of cattle owned by Indians to whom grazing lands have been assigned are yearly increasing in number. A serious difficulty exists in respect to water for irrigation, and it is greatly to be regretted that an apparent preference, which acts very prejudicially for the Indians, is given by those in charge of such matters to the rights of other people. In the interior of the Province land without