

before this period arrives but no one with whom I conversed during my journey in the North West, on the subject thought it was further distant than ten, or at the most 12 years, while many, and those best informed put it down at a shorter period.

Under these circumstances, which I am aware are well-known to you, it becomes an important question and one which demands immediate attention and action on the part of the Department as to the way in which another means of subsistence may be provided for the Indians. That they must turn their attention to farming admits of no doubt; there is no alternative between this and starvation. The question then is, how shall they be induced to settle down and cultivate the soil?

One of the greatest impediments in the way of their doing so is the belief inherent in the mind of every Indian that it is derogatory to the dignity of a man to work. I may remark that this feeling is so strong that during the time the negotiations for the conclusion of the treaty were being carried on at Fort Appelle the Indians would not lift the beef supplied to them into their carts, deeming it beneath them to do so. It will therefore