

Blue Quill.

This headman and his following still remain at Egg Lake, south of the river. His wife died last winter and his friends took advantage of the opportunity to visit him in his bereavement and sat up all his potatoes, consequently the band had no seed to plant this spring, however, he sowed eighty bushels of barley all of which ripened. They have thirty acres of land under cultivation, all well fenced, two yoke of oxen and ten horses. They have ten dwellings and two stables. I believe that with assistance these Indians will take care of themselves for they are very industrious, dexterous hunters and self reliant. At Victoria there still remains a waggon, left by the Department contractors of 1882-3, it is useless as one wheel does not fit the axle.

Saddle Lake District.

The supplies for the district having been delivered here this year and Mr. Carson given charge of them as well as of those appertaining to him in his position of farming instructor, I directed him to place the former in a separate warehouse, to keep separate books and make separate returns. He should be furnished with books properly ruled for the purpose. Whilst this district is part of the Edmonton agency, I must call attention to the necessity of all supplies delivered here, being entered in and going through the agency books, which has not heretofore been done. I took an inventory of the district supplies and farm supplies on hand and made up the books and returns to date of my visit on 30th September.

District Supplies.

Flour was in course of delivery on a contract made with Hardisty & Fraser, of Edmonton. It was not of uniform quality or weight, and each sack had to be examined and weighed separately. When not up to the standard in either case it was set aside. I submit that this inspection should be made at the mill by the contractor himself.

Bacon.

This was correct both in quality and weight.

Saddle Lake Indians.

These Indians have eighty-seven acres under cultivation and this year twenty acres of new land well broken. Their crop consisted of six acres of potatoes and 60 acres of barley, the remainder of the land cultivated being in gardens. The barley harvest was very late; owing to the continuous rains during August it did not ripen quickly. I am afraid that the result of the threshing will not prove satisfactory.

I visited the Snake Hills steambot landing, where Mr. Carson has built a good substantial storehouse, eighteen by twenty-four, as directed. It is of spruce logs and floored and shingled; its total cost to the Department being \$216.

The instructor has also built an excellent storehouse on the farm, at no extra cash outlay, as the material was taken from the barn which had to be taken down, as it proved to be insecure. He was also putting up a stable. An implement shed is very much required.

The condition of the other bands of this district is reported by the instructor as prosperous. Their trade in fur at Lac-La-Biche has been good. Last winter the Hudson Bay Company claim to have traded \$25,000; Peter Pruden, \$15,000, Alexander Emille, \$11,000, and the smaller traders to the amount of \$5,000. This \$58,000 value in goods and supplies is reported to have gone into the hands of our Indians.

The Whitefish Lake Band sowed ninety bushels of wheat, one hundred and sixty-nine bushels of barley, and one hundred and eighty-six bushels of potatoes. They broke twenty-five acres of new land this year.