

*Farm No. 14.—Mr. P. T. Williams, Farming Instructor.*

Upon my arrival at Onion Lake, See-kas-koots' reserve, I inspected the location of his farm. The weather had broken and rain set in, but most of the grain was already harvested. Mr. Williams has reason to be proud of the success he has met with in civilizing his Indians. Fully ten miles of this reserve is well settled by Indians who have located in suitable places for farming. The 181 acres broken comprises farms all the way from 4 to 20 acres each, every head of a family having one, with a good house, and well fenced. Four years ago all the crop here was a small patch of three acres, put in with hoes under the hill. The chief did not take kindly to the work until the past year. He was what is termed in western lingo a "bucker," therefore, the greater credit is due to Mr. Williams for breaking him in.

The crops on the home farm have been a great success this year, and if there was a grist mill there would be no occasion to provide anything but a little meat during next seeding. A threshing machine is very much needed also. I took an account of the stock of provisions on hand, also an inventory of the implements, tools, &c. I examined the books and found them correct and to agree with the stock. This farm has been used this year as a depot of supplies for all this district, instead of leaving them as heretofore in charge of the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Pitt.

At Fort Pitt I examined the supplies which had only a short time before been landed there, ex-steamboat, on this year's contracts. I found them of good quality and the flour correct in weight.

I arrived at Battleford on the 18th September. As the weather was fine I at once directed my attention to visiting the reserves with the Agent, Mr. Hayter Reed.

Moosomin's Reserve is situated on the Saskatchewan nearly opposite the mouth of Jack Fish Creek. Mr. Clink is the instructor. They have done exceedingly well and have good crops. The Indians work steadily and have learned to do all kinds of farm work. Their large stacks of grain were a visible sign of their industry, and that their labors had been well rewarded.

Their root crops also had yielded well, and they had been successful in raising field beans.

*Poundmaker's Reserve.*

It was refreshing to me to find this chief so busily engaged building a house with his Indians, as scarcely to have time to talk to me in passing. When I last saw him he was on the "war path" (figuratively), at Cypress Hills; however, we did not interrupt him long, but left him to his work, asking him to come and see us in the evening at the Instructor's house—in the meantime we took a look at the farms. Considering that this is the first year these Indians have remained steadily at work, they have made great progress; the work has all been done by themselves, under the direction of Mr. Samuel Ballentine, to whom great praise is due for his good management. Two Indians were engaged ploughing their land for the next crop with oxen, each directing his own team without a driver. Their work would have been a credit to even a white man. Their land is well fenced. In the evening the chief, with about a dozen of his principal men, came down to the house and we had a talk. I was happy to find there was no complaints. His most important request was to have his reserve extended and to take additional land on the north side of the Battle River.

*Strike-him-on-the-back Band.*

These Indians have done fairly, but just at this time they were somewhat discomposed by the new arrivals from the south, who had not settled down to work as yet. Their grain crops were harvested and they were busy at their roots. Mr. Taylor, a native from Red River, is in charge of them. Compared with other bands in this district, they have not made the same progress, but they have made better progress than many bands elsewhere. The chief being old and past work himself is a great drawback, and no doubt has a detractive influence upon their advancement.