

trouble at the South Piegan Agency during the summer, and at one time troops had to be sent to that reserve as an outbreak was expected. These Indians are off their reserves nearly all the time, and are the greatest horse thieves in the country. Nearly all the horses stolen at Cypress from Indians, whites and half-breeds were taken by these Indians, and a great deal of blame attached to our Indians. Of course, I discourage their visiting here as much as possible.

At the close of the Blackfoot payments, Mr. Sub-Agent Pocklington proceeded to Calgary to pay the Sarcees and Stoneys. I have heard that a reduction of about 70 has been made in the Sarcee payments, but have not heard from the Stoneys or received the pay-books. The Stony payments will be little trouble as they are not given to cheating and we have a correct count of them. I find that the Indians are spending their money sensibly, buying principally blankets and clothing, and they are without doubt much in need of the latter. I think that if the Government, instead of sending ammunition or giving the Indians the hides of animals killed, would instead send some clothing and bales of common print for the women to make dresses, it would help them greatly, as the women suffer most, being literally in rags. The women fight over the old cotton flour sacks, of which they make dresses.

When it is remembered how few ways these Indians now have of clothing themselves, not even having buffalo hides to make mocassins, it will be understood to what straits they are put for clothing. The payments show me that the Blackfeet and Bloods are on the decrease. A good many children died during the summer. This is also the case with the Sarcees. But if anything the Piegans and Stoneys have held their own and even increased. There has been little crime among the Indians. More trouble is caused by the stealing of women from each other than in any other way. This can only be stopped by the giving up the practice of selling their women for horses, as only a few are rich enough to buy women now, and in consequence most of the young men who have no horses cannot get married, and therefore steal from some one rich in women, and as, of course, the old law among them of cutting off a woman's nose for leaving her husband is done away with, the women do about as they like. With these exceptions the Indians have had little or no crime among them. The reserves are now supplied with provisions to last until next July, there being flour enough, and on some reserves more than enough, to last until that time. On the Blood Reserve the amount is not quite all delivered, but will be in a few days.

The contractors have plenty of cattle on hand, so there is no danger of any distress on account of food running short, as we have abundance.

I think that good wheat can be raised at the Crossing, and if it proves a success next year, a small grist mill down on that reserve would supply us with a good quantity of flour. If the mill had a saw attachment, logs could be brought down the Bow River and converted into lumber at the Crossing. I have little doubt that if the Indians for a few years are encouraged to continue as they have done this summer, that we can each year reduce the ration and finally have those Indians living on their own produce and what money they can earn by working on farms, &c. Already many of them find work round the country.

But the coming summer great care will have to be exercised in their management, as many questions will arise and a very large number of men will be working on or near the Blackfoot Reserve. At present everything looks most promising.

There are schools on the Blood Reserve and at Morleyville, and, although the teachers are indefatigable in their labors, the progress is slow. I think that the only way to really teach the Indian children is to separate them altogether from their parents, as these will never force the children to attend school if they wish to shirk, and, therefore, during the summer they only go now and then and the rest of the time run wild. If one or two large establishments were started, say on the railroad a hundred miles from any of the reserves, where children from all the tribes would be taught, not only book-learning but also farming, their parents being allowed to visit them occasionally, and to see themselves the progress made, more good would be done in such a school as this in one year than can be done on the reserves in five. Such schools have been established in the States and are found to be a great success.