

nearly all been sown on new land and was got in some two weeks earlier than last season, owing to fall ploughing. The crops are looking remarkably well. I also beg to draw your attention to the fact that the seed grain in 1881 cost \$2,073, while the grain this year only cost \$452.25, being a decrease of \$1,620.75, to which must be added a cheque forwarded the Receiver-General for \$139.25 being amount received for surplus wheat sold to Moore & Macdowal, making the actual cost of purchase of grain for this year only \$333.

The Indians gave to the farmers for safe keeping 220 bushels wheat and 12 bushels potatoes more than last year. The balance of seed was raised on Government farms, or purchased from the Indians for bacon or clothing.

Some 200 acres of old land is being summer fallowed on the various reserves, and some 200 acres of new land has been broken since seeding. The provisions expended from January to July 31st, 1882, were only 44,661 lbs. flour and 11,751 lbs. bacon, including what was sold for grain, thus making a decrease in the issue of 29,898 lbs. flour, 1,040 lbs. bacon, for last season, and 33,403 lbs. flour and 5,532 lbs. bacon on the two years I have had charge. The decrease in the issue of provisions is owing to the fact that the Indians last winter used flour from grain raised by themselves. I have only asked for 450 sacks flour for this fall's contract, last year's contract being 700. Thus you see that the issue of rations has been steadily decreasing, while the work has increased three-fold in the past two years. The expenditure of provisions includes what was paid out for labor on the farms, which is no small sum, as all the buildings, fences, &c., were put up by the Indians, and the establishments at Snake Plain and Duck Lake are as good as any in the country.

I may state here that the Indians do all their own ploughing and harrowing, and a good deal of the seeding. O'kenasis, headman, sows with both hands and is very proud of it; he will not teach any of his men to sow, saying that if they knew as much as he did he could not control them. I am happy to state that the Indians are far ahead of most of the half-breeds in farming, and in fact compare favorably with many of the best white farmers. They have capital fences, and are the only ones, with the exception of the Government Instructors, who roll their land. I had hard work to get them into their present state of efficiency, but now have no trouble with any of them, and feel sure that if I give an order it will be carried out to the best of their ability. Attackacboop and Mistowasis paid into our hands last year one-half the purchase money on the threshing machine they got me to buy for them.

For crops raised last year and houses built, &c., please refer to the printed Report which I now enclose.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. M. RAE,
Indian Agent.

—————
COWICHAN AGENCY,
BRITISH COLUMBIA,
MAPLE BAY, 16th August, 1882.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following Report, together with tabular statement, containing statistics with regard to the Indians within this Agency.

Care has been taken to have the statistics as nearly as possible correct, and by them it will be seen that the permanent population of the Agency is between two and three thousand, consisting of thirty bands scattered over thirty-nine different reserves on the east coast of Vancouver and adjacent Islands.

That I may be better able to settle the land disputes which are constantly occurring between the Indians themselves, and sometimes between them and their white neighbors, I have made myself acquainted with the boundaries of most of these reserves.