

*Alexander's Band.*

If these Indians successfully harvest their grain, they will do well having nearly one hundred acres of barley alone. It was ripe, and with the exception of one field had escaped the frost. The change from last year is remarkable. Then, the portion of their crop that had not been destroyed by hail was afterwards frozen. It is to be regretted that they have so few potatoes (five acres). On account of the total failure of the crop in 1883, they had no seed, and the quantity sent by the agent was inadequate for the number of the band. A pleasing matter to note here is, that every man or woman, head of a family, in this band, has some crop. The chief is building a new house for himself. His neighbor, Chief Michel, and his band have purchased a reaper for themselves. The band cattle have done well, excepting that they have always had so large a proportion of bull calves; the herd, in consequence, does not increase very fast. They have put up a large quantity of hay.

*Michel's Band.*

The crops upon this reserve are excellent, and one cannot realize that he is driving through an Indian reserve. The large fields, strong, straight fences, and good log houses, in the midst of a surrounding country of mixed wood and prairie, almost lead one to fancy that he is passing through some of the newly settled districts of Ontario.

For the first time here, the crops have escaped both hail and frost. The proportion of their root crop is too small. Five acres of potatoes is altogether too little for a band.

*Alexis' Band.*

This band has done exceedingly well this year, and has, besides wheat and barley, eight acres of potatoes.

*Tommy la Potack Band*

has made steady progress. The death of the chief this year somewhat unsettled them.

*Schools.*

I visited the mission school at St. Albert. It happened to be the opening day after the holidays. There was an attendance of fifty-eight in the classes; but the older children were all busy in the harvest fields connected with the institution. The children passed a very creditable examination—the youngest in reading and spelling in the primer, and the higher classes in advanced English and French Readers and in grammar and geography. I inspected the dormitories, which were fitted up with much comfort, and were patterns of neatness and cleanliness. I was shown excellent needle and fancy work and knitting, all the labor of the girls; rolls of flannel, spun, woven and dyed by them from their own wool. They have 108 pupils on their roll, thirty of them being treaty Indian children. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the accomplished ladies who devote their life to this work. The day schools on the reserves at Battle River were closed for the midsummer holidays.

I have much pleasure in stating that the supplies of tools and implements furnished in this district by the contractors this year, have been received in good order, are equal to samples and that each sack of flour is of correct weight.

*Victoria District.*

I arrived here on the 26th of September, having the day before passed through the Wah-shu-ta new settlement of Indians. Their progress has been small in farming since my visit last year. They have built a few good houses and as they are very adroit hunters, I have no doubt but that they will get along without much assistance from the Department during the coming winter.