

would be able to get work, They told me that already some of them had earned as much as \$100, packing in the mountains with their ponies for the surveying parties; their only fear appeared to be, that their land would become so valuable that the white men would take it from them. I assured them that the Government would protect them, and that without their consent not an acre would be touched.

Already the news of the negotiations with the Blackfeet had reached the Stonies, and these Indians informed me (as subsequently did the Sarcees, Peigans and Bloods), that they all were of the same mind as Crowfoot, and "what he said, they all said." Although the Stonies and Peigans had no interest in the fresh negotiations with the Blackfeet, still they looked up to Crowfoot as their chief, whose judgment they had confidence in, and whose advice they are always ready to take. After leaving the Stonies, Col. Macleod and myself held council with the Sarcees, who were allowed a year or two ago to take a reserve at Fish Creek, as it was found they were continually quarrelling with the Blackfeet, with whom they had jointly taken the reserve, when the Treaty was made in 1877. They signed a surrender of their interest in the Blackfoot reserve and were confirmed in their present holding at Fish Creek.

I also visited the Peigans and found them improving. Their fields were in good order and extensive; some are making themselves very comfortable, and, in a short time, I am satisfied they will be nearly, if not quite, self-sustaining.

The Bloods were only too glad to give a surrender of their interest in the Blackfoot reserve, and expressed the same views as their chief did, when he appealed to the Government to give them a reserve at Fort Kipp some three years ago, and said they were content with the reserve they now had.

I had now seen all the Indians in Treaty 7, and instead of finding, as I had anticipated from the reports that reached me during last winter and spring, that there would be great difficulty in inducing the Indians to come to terms, it was quite the reverse, and from one end of Treaty 7 to the other, there appeared to be unusual contentment and gratitude to the Government for their treatment of them; and when they were assured that these negotiations were final and the boundaries agreed upon would be surveyed at once by Mr. Nelson (who attended all the meetings), and could not be interfered with by anyone without their consent, they were greatly pleased. I am glad to be able to report in regard to this Treaty that great progress has been made and a large area put under cultivation, about 1,150 acres, and this all on the reserves. Their potatoe fields were extensive and kept in excellent order, and the Indians took great pride in showing them. On the Stoney reservations the crops were again destroyed by frost. Our Agent reported in the spring that these Indians begged to be assisted to put in a crop this year, and agreed that should it be again destroyed by frost to ask for no further assistance in that direction in the future.

I think it is now clearly demonstrated that, except in a few favored localities which can only be selected after trial, this reserve is not suited for cultivation on a large scale. I have no doubt the old women will continue to put in small patches of potatoes in sheltered corners and to raise them successfully, but it is not advisable that the same staff of employees be continued on this reserve. The Stonies have exceptional opportunities for making a living without cultivating the soil, they are good hunters and live in the mountains a great part of the year; they can get all the work they want either on the railway, taking tourists into the mountains, herding stock for the cattle ranches or raising cattle of their own.

Schools.

I have little to add to my report of last year relative to the schools throughout the Territories. There are difficulties to be overcome before their success on the several reserves can be assured, and a fair return had for the expenditure incurred. It is found as a general rule (the exceptions being but few) that where we have teachers who are not Missionaries working more from a philanthropic desire to benefit the Indians than for personal gain, little interest is displayed in procuring a large and