

There is a very useful and excellent team of Ontario horses upon this reservation. They are in good order, although they have done a great deal of work. There are three yokes of oxen, all good, and in good condition.

I find that every workman upon this reservation keeps his own horse; the Instructor has a cow also. I think a circular letter should originate from yourself, and be sent to each Farm Agent, Farming Instructor, and acting Farming Instructor in the Territories, prohibiting this practice, as it is open to much abuse, and it must take up much of the employees' time looking after their own animals.

The Instructor has built a good house, also a root house.

The total number of acres broken on the Homo Farm (which is situate upon the reservation) and reservation are 139. I instructed the farmer to keep his oxen steadily employed breaking land upon the reservation during the summer.

The Indians of this band are all in, and are all settled down upon their reservation. They appear happy and contented, as they have reason to be; they take, Indian fashion, great interest in their work, and I have no doubt will, by another year, be nearly self-supporting.

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FORT MACLEOD, 12th May, 1881.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that I arrived at Morley, on the 28th ultimo, and placed myself in communication with Mr. Daniel McDougall, acting Farming Instructor to the Stony Indians.

The following morning, in company with the Rev. John McDougall, Mr. Indian Agent McLeod, and Mr. Daniel McDougall, I rode over the reservation.

From its proximity to the mountains, and from the character of the soil, I have grave doubts regarding the general success of agriculture here, the soil being light, sandy loam, on a bed of gravel (the knolls being entirely gravel). In a dry season crops cannot do well, unless a system of irrigation can be successfully applied, which may be possible, as there are several small creeks crossing the reserve. As a cattle ranch, it is not what an experienced cattle man would select as a winter ranch, there being so much brush and timber. The cattle seek these places in a storm, and if the storm lasts several days, they will not come out to feed, whilst in a rolling country where there is no brush or timber, the cattle seek the hollows and always have grass under their feet. As a summer ranch, from the quality of the grass, it cannot be excelled. I saw many of their cattle that were there, and Mr. McDougall reported they had wintered well and without much loss; most of the cows were with calf or had already calved. The past winter was an exceedingly pleasant one here, and they had no storms worth mentioning until the beginning of April; the same storm that detained me at the Marias River. The snow that fell then at Morley was quite thirty inches deep, where not drifted, and occurring at the end of the winter when the cattle were weak, a few of them died.

The Indians have erected some fifteen houses during the past winter, but as yet few of them are roofed in; they have fenced most of the land that is broken, and were taking great interest in their work; the crops they will put in this spring are potatoes and turnips, as Colonel Macleod found it impossible to obtain any barley for seed for them.

There are altogether about 100 acres broken, or about thirty-three acres to each of the three bands, and the amount of work each band had done was about the same. In one band the Indians were using two teams of their own horses cross-ploughing; they were getting along with them very well, making use of the pony plough harness sent up last year.

I met the three bands in council in the school house, and got from them an account of their work, also how the cattle which were given to them had wintered. Bear's Paw band lost six cows, and the wolves took some calves of the cows, two died calving, one was hooked, one was mired, and two died in the storm. Two work oxen given to the band by yourself were very wild, but they are very fine oxen, and