

that he would be always willing to help his fellow Indians with his advice. I pointed out to him that he might even in time become enfranchised. There is every reason to believe that Little Child will accept the invitation and will be in with his followers this summer. O'Soup, Ne-pa-pi-ness and Ne-quan-e-que-nape, all left perfectly contented. Preparations are being made on the reserve for the arrival of those from the Plains. Although over 300 bushels of potatoes were frozen through some pits having been opened during the winter by some parties unknown, yet has there been a sufficiency at this point to meet all their demands. This overplus of potatoes I had intended for the reserves up this way, and in consequence had to buy seed from outsiders. To be in a more central position for all the reserves, I have decided to remove the Instructor's headquarters to a point on Dominion land south of the reserves, there a fit house will be built somewhat better than the present hut occupied by Mr. Setter. I may here mention that one Indian with his family has come in from the Cypress Hills and as he had brought nothing from the Plains, and had good horses and carts, I gave him a load of flour for the Crooked Lake. I wrote you some time ago that I intended getting the Priest's grist mill down to this point to grind the Indians' wheat, but I subsequently changed my mind as I found I could do it cheaper by Indian labor, paying for same in provisions. This I did and am satisfied with the result. I trust you will not lose sight of the moveable steam grist mill I applied for in the latter part of January last, such a mill will prove a great saving to the Department. I hope both yourself and the Commissioners will see the advantages attendant on having such a mill on this grain growing district as I do. I was just about starting out for the File Hills Reserves when I received your telegrams *re* Pie-a-pot and Indians for the Indian Head. I in consequence deferred my visit to that point until I return from the Indian Head. I take along with me Mr. Surveyor Nelson who will define to me the limits of the reserve and establish same on the ground, and at the same time I will pick out suitable localities for agricultural purposes. What freighters there are here I have engaged to go to Ellice for supplies. I am glad to state that since writing you on the 6th instant, in answer to your telegrams, the Priest Père Honyouard finds that he will be able to spare me some more potatoes, which I will plant for those Indians now coming north, if possible, on the Indian Head Reserve; at all events have them planted, I will.

Through the frequent interviews I have had with the File Hills chiefs and their Indians, while down for freight all through the winter and up to a few days back, and also from what I have gathered from the Instructor, Mr. Taylor, everything seems to be progressing favorably at that point. The Indians seem quite to like their instructor, and they have made no complaint. He, at the same time, exhibits quite an interest in his Indians. Chiefs Little Black Bear, Star Blanket and Okaness did all the freighting for their reserves all winter. Little Black Bear is as contented as ever, he has quite a nice house built, also Star Blanket, whose is the best however. It may be interesting for you to know that when Little Black Bear first went on his reserve, he was in constant dread of starvation, but when he reaped last year's crop of 515 bushels turnips, 128 bushels potatoes and 222 bushels carrots his fear vanished, and now he is as domesticated an Indian as he had been formerly nomadic. As you are all aware, he was a great Plain Cree, what I have said about this chief may aptly be said of the others. The Instructor reports that Okaness has set to work this spring with a good will. He is a chief who at first did not get on with Mr. Taylor, but I am pleased to know that Mr. Taylor has since gained his confidence and now everything works smoothly. Pe-pe-ke-sis is expected in from the plains shortly, and I understand he intends settling down on his reserve. He is a good Indian and I hope the news will prove true. These reserves have, like the others, been provided with seed grain and supplies for their spring's operations. In the matter of seed it is to be regretted that the quantity of onion seed requisitioned for was not sent, and a lesser quantity of the others. Onions are very much appreciated by the Indians and they have been constantly reminding me of this during the winter. I bought last winter 100 bushels of potatoes from Chief Ouchaness, of Leach Lake, and gave him a voucher for \$50, balance to be paid on delivery. This is the