

Neither Way-way-se-cappo's nor the Gambler's band have done well, as although the former have sown a considerable quantity of seed, they have received a large share of assistance, and it was only by great trouble and after a great deal of annoyance that I succeeded in getting them to plant at all.

Since seeding time they have been particularly independent, and have undertaken to compel me to give them what they required. The ring-leader in this outbreak is now undergoing two months' imprisonment, and I have recommended that the chief be broken. Gambler's band were also very independent, and did not sow much as I refused to give seed wheat to those who received it last year and kept none for seed; consequently most of the others refused to take seed. However, both these bands can get work if they want it, and a little starvation will do them good. Seeing that there was no possible chance of Way-way-se-cappo's band getting in the crop on the land formerly occupied as Farm No. 1, I gave it to the late Instructor on shares, but the Indians would not even put up the fence they had burned contrary to orders during last winter, and they will have to pay for the fence out of their share of the crop.

The two Assiniboine bands at Moose Mountain have done remarkably well under the care of Mr. McArthur, Assistant Farm Instructor. Last year owing to the high water and the generally bad condition of the roads it was impossible to get seed to them in time. They however reploughed their land and fenced all their fields cheerfully, and this year they have a large area under crop. I fear these reserves are not adapted for grain, as already a severe hailstorm followed by a frost has badly cut the growing crops. The Assiniboines are very fond of their cattle, and have built better stables than the settlers, and all their animals are very fat. I think with a few more cattle they will be able, in spite of the climate, to sustain themselves very soon.

The small band of mixed Cree and Salteaux at the east end of the Mountain are advancing very slowly indeed, and last winter allowed a cow to starve, and all their cattle would have shared the same fate if I had not arrived in time and removed them to the Farm; since then we only let them have the oxen when the grass is good. I do not expect to make these Indians farmers, a little corn and potatoes will be about the extent of their harvest. There are one or two good men, but the influence of the rest is too strong for them. They have a good fishing lake and they will have to look to that for subsistence, as they can sell their surplus fish.

The Riding Mountain Band are receiving very little assistance from the Government; some of them are doing exceedingly well and have large fields, but the majority are generally occupied in hunting with good results, and the band are all well clothed and contented. Their school is very well conducted by Mr. McVicar, an Indian student of Manitoba college, and those who attend are advancing rapidly.

The Salteaux band at Rolling River refused to take their new reserve, after it had been acquired for them at great trouble and expense; many of them are now anxious to take it, but I fear the part proposed to be purchased cannot now be had. However, they cost the Government little or nothing, and I have warned them that until they do settle down they will get no assistance.

The Sioux at Bird Tail Creek are advancing rapidly, and have now over 100 cattle; many of them are buying their own ploughs, reapers, mowers, &c., and some of them have large crops.

A great deal of sickness has visited them lately, caused by the want of fresh meat as they seldom hunt now; in fact, there is little to hunt in their country. I have asked the Department for sheep, which will be well taken care of, and will supply the place of deer. These Indians have a neat school house which they use as a church and Divine Service with a large attendance and a full choir, is held every Sunday by a native missionary.

The Sioux at Oak River are supporting themselves and their cattle are increasing; they take excellent care of their stock but pass too much of their time at Brandon where they support themselves easily but acquire bad habits; and it is difficult to keep liquor from them.