

was informed by the Agent), but it was understood they were to be allowed to remain here. A portion of the band has never accepted aid from the Government (such as oxen, implements, &c.) to farm, and will not. There are about one hundred souls in this farming community, under Yellow Calf. They had fifty bushels of wheat sown and twenty-five acres more of land broken which they intended to plant this year. They have eleven houses, four stables, and by the waggon road are sixteen miles from the farm house. The Indians would not be satisfied without holding a council with the Agent and myself. They assembled at the farm house on May the 7th. Little Child (Cowsees) asked for good treatment and a larger issue of food for the Indians just in from Cypress. The other chiefs said very little, and they all, upon being advised so to do, returned home with the intention of going to work.

I cannot speak too highly of the land in these reserves, and I was pleased to see that many of the Indians have commenced farming upon the high land, which is equally as good as the valley, and it will have a tendency to break up the band system. It is striking out for themselves; when they grow a crop they will feel like keeping it for their own and family's benefit, and this will encourage emulation and self-reliance, which I think are points we are aiming at.

On May the 11th, accompanied by the Agent I visited the File Hills reserves. The Indians were generally busy seeding. The land being more broken and woody, they have not the same opportunities of making large square fields as at the Crooked Lakes, therefore suffer in comparison. However, the greater richness of the soil makes up for what is lost by appearance. Little Black Bear and his people had already a quantity of seed in the ground. They have been farming two years. The chief asked for more oxen, shoes, another set of harrows, and another waggon. Star Blanket was not at home, but his Indians were at work. They are not very far advanced in agriculture, and their land was but poorly fenced.

Okaneese Band.

This chief and his men were waiting at the chief's house to hold a council, instead of being in the fields at work. We sent word to them to go to work, and that we would talk to them at night. They had not made much progress in seeding.

Peepeekeesees Band.

This chief was the last of those settled here to come upon his reserve, having only arrived from the plains with Pie-a-pot last summer, but unlike him did not again return. A small portion of his band had settled the year before. They were all hard at work, and "mean business." I think it will be found, that this band will surpass any others in this section before very long. The chief has a large comfortable house, and it was very clean. There are thirteen houses and three stables. The chief asked for more oxen and shoes for himself and people.

Farm No. 5.

Mr. Nichol, acting farm instructor, is in charge. I took an inventory of all the Departmental property and examined the books, which I found correct and well kept.

On May the 21st, I visited Farm No. 4, Mr. Hockley, acting Farm Instructor, and the bands under his supervision. He has built for himself a new house on the west side of Pasquah's reserve. This is a good thing for Pasquah and his Indians, but it is fully fifteen miles from where Muscowpetung and band are farming.

Muscowpetung Band.

I drove over their reserve, and considering that they only settled in the autumn of 1881, their progress has been most satisfactory. They had already over twenty acres in crop, and all their root crops and potatoes yet to put in, which will increase their acreage to over forty acres. It could scarcely be expected that these Indians would keep very much of their first year's crop for seed, and they, in common with all other bands, when short of flour and bacon, ate what they intended to keep,