

To give some of the Indian young men a thorough, practical knowledge of farming, I employed four of them on my farm during the summer; at first they were a little awkward, but in a short time I was agreeably surprised to see how quickly they acquired such a knowledge of the general work, as to not only make themselves useful, but very desirable farm hands. This system of imparting knowledge I consider preferable to any other, and intend to continue it next season.

The great secret in getting an Indian to become a practical farmer, is in getting him to acquire a taste for his work. This can only be done by a careful, considerate system of training, such as I have alluded to.

The new road which was opened up during the summer, along the Desert front, on the Maniwaki reserve, is of incalculable benefit to the Indians settled in that section. They have now the advantages of a good highway, which they can avail themselves of at all seasons. They seem to fully appreciate it, as before the completion of this road, the only way they could get to or from their habitations was by canoes. Not only does this road benefit the Indians along whose improvements it passes, but it opens up, besides, one of the finest tracts of land for agricultural purposes on the reserve. None other than Indian labor was employed in making this road. The men were in charge of Peter Tetesse, chief, who, in the capacity of foreman, performed the various duties entrusted to him to my entire satisfaction. The extent of road opened up and left ready for traffic, for the amount of money expended, unmistakably proves that excellent work was done, and demonstrates beyond the shadow of doubt, that, as laborers, the Indians, when properly handled, are not inferior to white men.

The progress made by the Indian children attending school has been very satisfactory. There is quite an increase in the number attending, although the average attendance is only about the same as the previous year. Having been informed by you, that it was desirable in the interest of the Indians of the River Desert band, that they should be advised to surrender a portion of the lands of the Maniwaki reserve, to be sold to their benefit, I called a general council meeting of the male members of the band, according to their rules, and explained to them that by far the greater portion of their lands were lying idle, and that they could never possibly utilize more than one-quarter of it, and if the lands, which they did not require, were sold, the proceeds would largely augment their funds; that, in fact, a direct source of revenue would be created by the sale of these lands. The sentiment of the meeting was in favor of a surrender being made as suggested, a small faction were, however, opposed to it. The majority, for the sake of harmony, considered it advisable to let the matter drop for some time, so that the meeting broke up without any satisfactory result having been obtained. The chiefs are strongly in favor of the proposed surrender, and as many other Indians of the band are likewise disposed, I expect, after some time, that a more unanimous opinion will prevail amongst them on this matter, and that a surrender of a large portion of their unoccupied lands will be effected.

The number of fur-bearing animals still continues to decrease, most of the Indians who live on the reserve have abandoned the chase altogether. They find it a rather precarious way of making a livelihood and can otherwise employ their time to better advantage.

The general conduct of the Indians on the reserve, during the past year, has been very good; indeed, were it not for the facilities which are afforded them for getting intoxicating liquors, it would be difficult to get a quieter or more harmless people.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

CHARLES LOGUE,
Indian Agent.