

be a credit to any white settler. It however had no windows, which the chief took very much to heart. I promised to send him one from Qu'Appelle, which I afterwards did.

I next visited Indian Head. It was at this point that a large reserve was set apart for the Assiniboines and Pie-a-pot and his band. It is a perfect paradise for settlers. I have seen most of this North-West, and nowhere could a finer agricultural country be found, plenty of wood, good water and good land.

I found that the Assiniboines, during the short time they were there, had built 21 houses. It is very unfortunate they would not remain, as there is no such another place available for a reserve in the country. Mr. Prevost, the Instructor, was still at his post in charge of the stores. I examined them and took an inventory, which showed 13 sacks of flour more on hand than was expected by the books at the Indian Office. Mr. Prevost accounted for it as being gained in issuing to the Indians by measure instead of by weight.

#### *Indian Head Storehouse.*

I took stock of the stores here and found they agreed with the books of the Indian Office. I examined the flour and found it of good quality and correct weight. The tools and implements were of the proper quality with some trifling exceptions.

#### *Indian Office, Qu'Appelle.*

In consequence of the books of this office not being posted up, I was not able to make a thorough inspection of them.

I examined the stores and took an inventory of the stock on hand, weighing over the bacon and counting the sacks of flour. The flour and bacon were of good quality and the stores and storehouses in good order.

The Indians of Treaty 4 have made but little progress compared with the Indians of the North Saskatchewan. I cannot say the Indians are to blame, for they appear tractable and willing. I lay the blame more particularly upon the instruction. Instructors were sent to Treaty 6 who proved to be good men. They took an interest in their work and remained at it steadfastly, and although many are ready to condemn home farms as a waste of money, I think they have done for us a good work, particularly in the regions remote from Indian agencies.

Upon these farms Indians have been taught, both to work and to see the result of their industry, and from this example have been ambitious to try for themselves. We are in many places able to do away with these farms, but I would earnestly urge that as far as possible, where the Instructor has proved himself faithful and successful, that his services may be retained to work with the Indians upon their reserves.

I am not at all sanguine that even the most advanced of our Indian bands are ready to be left to shift for themselves, and to work their reserves without direct supervision. In my opinion it will long continue a necessity to have men near and among them during the summer months to remind them when to sow and when to reap, and these men should be those in whom both the Department and the Indians have confidence.

In Treaty 4, instead of slackening our efforts, I think, for two years longer extra efforts should be made to make the Indians farmers. I would, therefore, recommend that one man in the spring should be sent to work upon each of the following reserves, where the home farms will be closed: Poorman, Day Star, Gordon, Mus-coupequhun and Yellow Quill, at Touchwood Hills; and Mus-cow-petungs near Qu'Appelle, and for the spring seeding only a man each to be sent to "Pasquah" and "Standing Buffalo." All of these men should camp upon the reserves and work constantly with the Indians.

At the request of the Commissioner, I have inspected the office here. I commenced this duty by examining the books and taking the daily routine of work of the office.