

found that in nearly every case the losses from all causes were small. The close vicinity of the South Peigans' reserve to that of the Blood's causes some trouble, as these Indians being all of the same tribe join each other in horse stealing, and as the South Peigans are, and have been in an almost starving condition, war parties have been frequent during the spring and summer. Taking them on the whole, our Indians have behaved remarkably well, showing a greater disposition to work than in any previous year.

The Blackfeet, Peigans, Stonies and Sarcees, with but few exceptions, have done no harm to any one, but have remained quietly on their reserves and worked. Two Stonies in the spring were arrested for killing cattle; they came down from their reserve to hunt along the mountains and were caught in a heavy snow storm and almost starved. Not being able to reach this Agency, some of the young men killed these cattle and were arrested and punished for the crime. I sent the rest of the band back to their reserves, giving them rations to go with.

We made a fairly early start at farming in the spring on all the reserves. The Indians worked well in many cases, ploughing with their own teams and ploughs on the Peigan Reserve. Ten ploughs were going at one time, worked by Indians and Indian horses, and the result was that a large acreage was turned over in this Agency, over 1,100 acres in all being ploughed. I am glad to say that no contract work was done at all in the Agency, all the work being done by our own men, Indians and teams, while last year many hundred dollars were expended on contract ploughing. I was instructed in good time to close the two supply farms at Fish Creek and Pincher Creek, and when the tools, men and horses from these farms were distributed, it gave us a great help and a large saving of expense. The closing of these farms was a most judicious move, as heretofore, what was raised had to be hauled to the reserves at some expense, and they were too far removed to benefit the Indians as schools of instruction. Seed grain was also sent to the different reserves from these farms, and used as seed and food. I sent seed wheat to most of the reserves, and at the Crossing and Blood Reserve, it has so far done well.

Some barley, more than we required, was sold at Fort Calgary, bringing 6 cents per lb., I sent seed potatoes from the Peigan Reserve to the Blackfoot Crossing, as they had not enough left for seed; I also sent potatoes from the same place to the Sarcee and Stony Reserves for seed, and still had a large surplus on hand at that place, which was, after using what was required for seed, issued as rations. The crop of potatoes on the Peigan Reserve last summer was a very large one, and the number of acres this year is much greater. The potatoes up to this time look remarkably well and altogether the Peigans have in a fine crop and have made much progress. They are well behaved and are now building new and better houses. Mr. Begg, the Instructor, manages them well, and deserves credit for the improvement in the tribe since he has had charge.

At the Blood reservation the crops are looking very well indeed, and a large number of acres are under cultivation—about 265 acres are under crop. The Indians on this reserve have shown a greater disposition to work this year than last, and I think that their habit of going across the line is almost broken. Two Bloods have recently been arrested for stealing a band of horses in Montana. The horses were taken, and one of the Indians, Star Child, who was arrested for the murder of Grayburn at Cypress Hills, has been sent to the Penitentiary for four years; we are well rid of him, as he has been a disturbing element in the camp. The other received a lighter sentence, as he was led on by Star Child. I was recently in the camp when a large band of stolen horses came in, and I, without trouble, took the whole band; and as the owners came in a few days afterwards, from Red Deer River, they recovered all their horses.

I am glad to say we have not been troubled with the Crees on this reserve this season as in the early spring. I prevailed on the Bloods to make peace with these Indians.

Taking the Bloods as a tribe, a marked improvement has taken place the last year, and I have every hope that they will continue to improve. We shall this fall