

quired. I had the cattle driven up. They have seventeen head, all were in good condition, and the Indians appeared very fond of them.

*Sampson Band.*

The farming instructor, Mr. Lucas, met me at this reserve, and remained with me throughout my inspection of the reserves and bands under his supervision. This is the largest band in Peace Hills, and they have made very great advancement in farming this year. Their grain was ripe and had escaped the frost. The Indians were very busy in every field but were very short of grain cradles. The chief's house is a large floored building of hewn timber. I visited their fields, and it gave me much pleasure to see the crops so fine and so well fenced.

*Ermine Skin's Reserve.*

I found this chief hard at work in the barley field. In the evening I went to his tent, as he said that he and his headmen wished to talk to me. This I gave him an opportunity to do, spending the whole evening with them in their council lodge.

*Muddy Bull.*

This is not a distinct band, but they work and receive assistance independently. Arriving amongst them in the forenoon, I found four men and seven women working in the barley field. These, with nine children, made a busy scene, and could it have been witnessed by doubters in the east, it would somewhat have shaken them in their belief that we will accomplish nothing in attempting to make this generation of Indians, farmers. The men were cradling the grain, and the women raking and binding. In another part of the field were growing as fine potatoes and turnips as I have ever seen. They have three cows and two yoke of oxen, but one of the oxen is baulky.

From this point I proceeded across the country to Farm 18, better known as Peace Hills Farm. The orders to the instructor not to work this farm, have been carried out; but Mr. Lucas' brother is living in the large unfinished house, and has in on the farm a large crop of wheat, barley and oats. The buildings proposed to be erected for the accommodation of a farming instructor, on Sampson's Reserve, should be commenced without delay. Those on Farm 18, together with the improvements in fencing and breaking, could probably be disposed of at a good price, but I am decidedly of the opinion that it is not to the advantage of the Department to keep up any establishment at that point, and the sooner the change could be made the better. Mr. Moss was acting as storekeeper and clerk for the farm agency and reserves. I audited the books, and took an inventory of the supplies, implements, tools and live stock on hand; of which I will report fully at my earliest opportunity.

Mr. Instructor Lucas is most indefatigable in his personal supervision of the work of the bands under him. The Indians have absolute faith in him, and work cheerfully under his direction.

I arrived at Edmonton August 28th, and the next day took stock of the goods on hand in the storehouse (returns of which I will send in later), and inspected the office, auditing the books and accounts. I have much pleasure in testifying to the efficiency in their respective positions, of the clerk, Mr. Mitchell, and Calder the storeman. At no point have I found the books and stores better kept, the system of book keeping being excellent.

*Pass-Pass-Chase Band.*

These Indians are much as usual; a few of them attempt farming, and they all come very regularly to the Indian office, monthly or oftener, for flour and bacon.

In company with the agent, I went to farm 17, on 1st September, Instructor O'Donnell in charge. I took stock and audited the books. O'Donnell has in crop on this farm sixteen acres of barley. There will be a large yield, as the crop is an excellent one.