

acres under crop in fields of four to ten acres, well fenced, and good dwellings. They are taking great pride in their cattle, already having a herd of 22. Alexis' Band have not done as well, there being a division in their camp with reference to the location of the reserve, the chief having had it surveyed on Lac St. Ann, whilst a portion of the band, under a head man, will persist in remaining at Stoney Lake. Unfortunately for the chief and his immediate followers his farms were visited by a hail storm in August, which totally destroyed his barley. Had it not been for this, his success would have drawn the seceding members of the band to him. Michel Band having moved on to their reserve two years ago, are doing exceedingly well. They had 60 acres of crop, and when I was there this promised a good yield. On the Home Farm there were 87 acres. A corner of the hail storm that did so much damage on Alexis Reserve also destroyed a field of wheat here. This farm has done an excellent duty in showing the Indians what can be accomplished with industry, but as its working entails an expense now not necessary, for even should the Indians crops fail any year, seed grain and potatoes can be purchased at reasonable prices from settlers. At the same time that I would recommend the closing of this farm, I would earnestly urge the necessity of continual help being given during the summer months to these Indians, not only in the way of white men to supervise and direct their farming operations, but also substantial help in the way of food will be required during this season for another year, or perhaps longer.

It will be to the interest of the Department to continue in its service the Instructor, Mr. O'Donnell, if he will remain. He has proved himself to be a diligent, painstaking officer, and is liked by the Indians. The progress they have made under him is evidence that he also has the the faculty of making them industrious.

I inspected the Agency Office and examined the books. I found the business had been conducted with much regularity. Letters and quadruplicates of vouchers were properly filed and docketed, and entries in books corresponded with receipts and way bills on file. I regret, however, to say that in consequence of the clerk, Mr. McRae, having met with a severe accident by falling upon a scythe and cutting the cords of his right wrist, the books had not been posted for several weeks. With this exception I was much pleased at the manner in which the interests of the Department had been looked after. I took an inventory of the stores and also examined their quality and condition. There was a good deal of flour and bacon on hand from the stores of the preceding winter, neither of which had kept very well, and there will be some waste in issuing. The quality of the flour sent in by the contractors this year is excellent.

There are still cows due under the treaty to most of the Indian bands in this district, and the chiefs all asked for more work oxen.

On September 6th I left Edmonton, and sixteen miles from Victoria, where the main trail crosses the Wah-shatenow Creek, is a settlement of fifteen families of Crees belonging to the Little Hunter Band of Indians, under a head man named Muskega-awah-tick. Although they have good land they have made but little progress in farming, being so far (55 miles) from the Farming Instructor, he could give them no direct supervision, and this goes to prove that without direction the Indian will make but small progress. Seed has been given them each spring, but from what I saw, the crops this year would hardly realize the seed sown. They have several good houses, but their farming has been unsuccessful so far. Two years ago I endeavored to persuade these people to leave here and go to Saddle Lake, where they would have the benefit of instruction from the farmer, but was unsuccessful in my efforts. Ten miles south of Victoria, and of the Saskatchewan, on Egg Lake, is another settlement of the Little Hunter Band under headman Blue Quill. He promised me two years ago that he would go to Saddle Lake, but they evidently changed their minds. They, too, have made but little progress in farming for the same reason that has proved such a drawback to the Wah-shatenow Indians. Blue Quill is a very intelligent Indian, and would, in my opinion, do well were he to go where he could receive the benefit of instruction and supervision. He asked for cows,