

*The Riding Mountain Band.*

This band was also formerly under the charge of Mr. Agent Herchmer, but this year has been transferred to my agency.

I started from Rolling River, in company with Mr. Agent Herchmer, for this place, on the morning of Friday, the 1st of August. It rained heavily nearly all day. We arrived at the reserve about six o'clock in the evening, and found all the Indians of this band camped on the reserve. On the morning of the 2nd, Mr. Herchmer caused the provisions to be brought on the reserve, and I lost no time in delivering them.

After the supplies were delivered I commenced paying, Mr. Herchmer remaining with me, giving all information necessary, until I got through. It appears that this band got very little assistance from the Department for some time back. From the bull and cows, given them at first, they have raised twenty-six head. Three brothers, by the name of Bone, have taken care of the cattle and provided hay for them, and took care of them all the time, and they refuse to do so any longer, unless the Department gives them an interest in them in this way: the Government to accept from them the number of cattle which had been given them, leaving them the increase; the returned cattle to be then given to some other member of the band who would in his turn receive the increase, and so on until the whole band would be supplied. It appears Mr. Herchmer recommended this method should be adopted, and I am of the opinion that were it carried out it would have a very good effect. I am certain that unless some means is devised by which the Indians can be induced to take an interest in cattle, they will be neglected. They sowed about thirty-five acres of wheat, oats and barley, and planted eighty-five bushels of potatoes and some garden seeds.

On account of the dryness of the first part of the season, the wheat crop is very light. The oats were very heavy, having been sown later, and came on rapidly on account of the June rains. The wheat was well turned when I was there, and, I consider, would be out of the way of the frost, but the yield will be very light, not more, I would judge, than twelve bushels to the acre. The potatoes were almost a failure, the greater part of them never came up, and what did suffered very much from the grubs.

A number of this band seem to be quite industrious. One of them has a good mower and horse rake, with which he puts up a large quantity of hay, for which he gets ready sale.

They claim the north-east quarter of Section 8, which is also claimed by the Hudson's Bay Company, and the north-west quarter of Section 9, which is claimed by the Presbyterian Mission. They ask that the reserve be staked out for them, showing the limits, in order that they may be able to detect any person who would be likely to commit trespass. They also wish to have their reserve surveyed into plots, so that each family may know its own property. This reserve is considerably broken; the land in general is very rough, and I am informed that the crops in the valley are more subject to be caught with the frost than on the higher ground. This reserve is well and conveniently situated, as it has a grist mill, saw mill, blacksmith shop and general store on the adjoining section, belonging to Hudson's Bay Company, and another grist mill, saw mill planeing machine and shingle machine five miles or less down the river, belonging to Whimster & Boyle. The first mentioned saw mill has also a planing machine and shingle machine. A few of these Indians say they have claims at Lake Audy, about twenty-five miles north of the reserve, on which they had improvements for a long time, and they still claim them.

This matter of Indians claiming places where they had improvements prior to any treaty having been made, is occurring on almost all the reserves. There is one of the Roseau River chiefs and his followers who claim at the rapids on that river, about eighteen miles from the reserve, and similar claims are made by the Rolling River