

The result of the work done on this reserve is most satisfactory. On the Piegan reserve, the potato crop is very large. The Indians have turned over, for next year's seed, about 50,000 lbs. of potatoes, and I have purchased 50,000 lbs. from them, at $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents per lb., to issue as rations, at the same rate as flour, which will effect a saving of nearly 4 cents on every pound issued, as flour is \$8.75 per 100 lbs. on that reserve, and it is also a great encouragement to the Indians to sell some of their produce. I have allowed some of the Piegans, who had more potatoes than they could use, to sell to people in the country, by giving them permits. They have, I should think, sold \$1,000 worth, and have still large quantities on hand.

We are making also, on this reserve, a great reduction in the rations, letting them use their potatoes in lieu. The Indians are all fond of potatoes, and it is about the best crop they can raise. The Piegans also raised quite a good crop of oats and barley, which is now being threshed by the new machine that was sent in this summer.

At the Blackfoot Crossing, we have taken in, from Indians, for seed, between 20,000 and 30,000 lbs. of potatoes, and they have a good many on hand to use. Here we are also making a reduction in the ration of flour. A small crop of barley was also raised on this reserve, also a good crop of turnips on the upper reserve. I should recommend that wheat be grown on this reserve, as the land is, I think, the best for farming in this Agency, and not affected by summer frosts. I am sure the soil would raise first-rate wheat, and it could be used much more profitably than barley, as last winter I fed a large quantity to Crees, at Cypress Hill, and they even preferred it to flour. They boil it with meat, making a good and nutritious soup.

At Calgary, the Sarcees were not so successful, but we managed to take in a good many potatoes and other seed, for next spring, from the Fish Creek Farm, and I hope, next year, to make a good showing on this reserve.

The Stoneys raised little or nothing, for the reason already mentioned. They will have to depend principally on stock-raising for their livelihood.

Taking the crops in this Agency as a whole, they are most successful, and the manner in which the Indians have worked is really astonishing, as is the interest they have taken and are taking in farming, when it is remembered that this is the first year for most of them, and that, until this year, they have been the wildest and most intractable Indians in the North-West. Crowfoot and a good many Blackfeet were in here trading with their annuity money. When the Piegans came down to sell their potatoes, seeing these Indians realizing a profit from what they raised, it has greatly encouraged the Blackfeet to try and do the same. The tools received this year are all excellent. Another threshing machine would save expense, and the wear and tear that only one machine will be subject to, in moving from place to place over the long distances between the reserves.

Lumber is also much needed, and if a saw-mill were erected on the Stoney Reserve, where there is a good deal of timber, that reserve could supply what we require. I should like to see the Indian houses more comfortable, as it would have the effect, in a short time, of keeping them altogether at home. Many of them are now proud of their houses, but most of them are sadly in need of doors and windows, &c.

I am glad to say the Indians do not take the same interest in their medicine dances that they used to, for, although they observed them this year, I hear of few cases in which Indians went through the test of torture as in years back. A few parties of Piegans and Bloods went towards Sioux Grass Hills after buffalo during the summer, and succeeded in killing a few, but they are gradually giving up the habit of making long journeys away from their reserves. Whiskey, was in one case, smuggled from across the line or on the line, and traded to a party of Bloods who got very drunk but committed no depredations. This could be stopped by the authorities on the other side, as, in the case I mention, the whiskey was brought just to the line from Burton and sold to the Indians. It was evidently the man's intention to bring this liquor in and sell it to the Bloods at the time of the payments, but he