

would recommend on my arrival below that a reserve be given to him at that point. This greatly pleased the chief and his Indians who were with him.

In a day or two they all left, accompanied by an instructor, and I have since heard that every family has a house to live in, and some twenty or thirty acres of land have been broken.

As I have already reported specially on this matter, I mention this to show how the wildest Indians are prepared to go to work if they have an opportunity of doing so.

The Blackfeet Indians under Crowfoot, left their reserve last October twelve months for the United States, and very few have, as yet, returned.

They have been amongst the buffalo ever since they left, and I do not anticipate that they will return before next spring.

On my arrival at Fort Walsh, last October, I found some three thousand Indians, representing portions of forty-two different bands, awaiting my arrival, in order, if possible, to be paid their annuity money at that point.

The annual payments had taken place at the end of July, but these Indians being among the buffalo, did not like to leave them. It was thought better that they should be paid at Fort Walsh, especially as news had just arrived that the buffalo were very thick in the neighbourhood of Fort Belknap and were heading north.

These, with the Blackfeet, a portion of the Bloods, Piegans and Assinniboines, I am under the impression will number some seven or eight thousand. In all probability they will return to us in the spring, and some provision will have to be made to meet that emergency, or I fear trouble might arise.

FARMING INSTRUCTORS.

I am glad to be able to report that a large number of the farming instructors sent to the North-West in the fall of 1879 have carried out their duties in a most satisfactory manner, and in very few instances have any complaints been made to me by the Indians.

Two cases of assault have been reported to me, one, of two Indians abusing an instructor for not leaving his own meal to cook one for them, and the other for an attack made by an instructor on an Indian for impertinence and abusive language.

In the former cases the Indians were arrested by Inspector Herchmer of the N.W.M. Police and committed to jail with hard labor for two months.

This I understand has had a good effect among the Indians at Fort Pitt, where the trouble occurred, and where the Indians at times are very independent.

The other case was settled satisfactorily by Mr. Lawrence Clarke of the Hudson Bay Company at Carlton, and I have heard of no further complaints in that quarter.

The return of work performed on the farms will show that the instructors have not been idle, and the quantity of land put under cultivation by the Indians this year, as compared with any previous one, has astonished and surprised many who at one time were not sanguine of the success of the new policy. The Rev. Father André, of Duck Lake, informed me that the progress made by the Indians in the North-West had altered his opinion in regard to the instructors, and they had accomplished more than he had believed possible, and convinced him that the Indians in that quarter can be made self-supporting.

I append extracts from letters written to me by the agents in the different districts, a perusal of which I think will convince you that although the outlay to start the farm agencies throughout the North-West was very large, the results are not disappointing, and I trust continued assistance will be given to those Indians that make up their minds to settle. In another year I think a few instructors might be dispensed with in some districts where the Indian reserves are in good working order, and they can be placed in a new reserve where the Indians are not so far advanced.