

NO. 341

Office of the
 Indian Commissioner
 North West Territories
 Regina July 14th 1886

Sir,
 I have the honor to inform you that in view of the generally discouraging crop prospects throughout the country, it is imperatively required that you should take such measures as are necessary to secure from your Indians a supply of grain and potatoes sufficient to seed an area equal to that under crop in your Agency this year.

This amount of seed must be obtained in this way even though it should take the whole crop to do it and if it is possible enough should be stored to seed a larger area, and a large quantity of potatoes should of course be set aside to cover possible losses by frost etc. for it is not desirable to purchase seed grain or potatoes for three years in succession as would be the case should we buy next Spring, and it would be preferred that Indians should be given as needed such food supplies as this grain would procure them rather than that they should be dependent upon the Department for seed next Spring.

In this connection I would draw your attention to the importance of summer fallowing and the necessity of having a sufficient area under cultivation to admit of its practice.

The
 Indian Agent
 Peace Hills