

The vicinity of the saw-mill has given a great impetus to building, and some very neat houses with board floors and shingled roofs have gone up lately. Between hunting, lumbering and cutting cordwood for the mills all the able-bodied can now get along well. A little help to the sick, with perhaps some assistance at seeding, may be required.

The farm (No. 1) at Way-way-se-cappo's, having been finally closed, I propose to give this band very little help indeed. Many of them have large crops, for Indians, several 150 bushels of grain and plenty of potatoes.

The grain grown on the farm will supply all the seed required in my district, and there will be some to sell.

The Gambler's band have done pretty well, and as they can earn a good deal among the settlers, and have had moderate help for two seasons, I do not consider that they should receive much further aid. A little to the sick and at seed time should be all that is required.

Coté's band at Crow's Stand have excellent crops, Coté himself having about 800 bushels of barley and over 1,500 bushels of potatoes, but he supports quite a number of Indians when hunting is bad. They, however, assist him on his farm. Several other Indians have also large crops, and this band have over 4,000 bushels of potatoes. Wheat is not a safe crop for Indians at this point, as it requires to be sown immediately the snow is off and before the Indians can make up their minds to go to work. Two Indians, however, have raised nice crops of wheat, and their success may incite the others. The absence of a grist mill is also against wheat culture, as barley when steeped and hulled and then boiled is considered by the Salteaux better food than wheat treated in the same way. The Sioux, on the other hand, do not like barley.

A good crop of wheat has been grown on the Government farm this year, but as it is not yet threshed, I cannot inform you of the result. The sample is, however, splendid. I have sent a small bag containing some to your office. There will be plenty of seed grain and potatoes for all the Indians in the Pelly District. The potatoes also turned out well, and we have a large quantity of turnips, about 2,500 bushels, part of which I have pitted for spring use, and part distributed to those of Key's band that have no gardens.

This farm is now also closed up, only one man being retained, according to your instructions. I have not yet taken over the effects at this farm, as I have not had time to go up there since I closed it, but propose going on first snow.

Many of Kee-see-konsa's band have raised good crops of barley, potatoes and turnips, and have built very neat houses. I have lent this band cattle and cows, and hope that they will make large improvements next year.

The Key's band are gradually moving down to their proposed reserve on the river immediately above Fort Pelly and are building very neat houses. As a good many settlers are going into the neighborhood, and several lumbermen are about to get out logs, this band will, after they are once fairly started, be able to get along nicely. Between hunting, farming and lumbering all these Indians at Pelly should be able to support themselves.

The small number of Indians actually wintering at Moose Mountains will require assistance for another year, as the little crop they had this year was almost totally destroyed by a violent hailstorm. I have already guarded against disappointment in getting out seed for next spring by sending 120 bushels of barley to the reserve, and as the mice are in myriads, I have forwarded a cat. A great deal of their land is fall ploughed, and I hope next year that they will raise plenty of barley and swedish turnips to support them.

There is only one man in the Government employment at Moose Mountain, and the expense will be kept down as much as possible. Unfortunately, all the country to the west has been burnt over, and quite a number of Indians from the west are hunting in Moose Mountain Crossing, the food supply of the resident Indians, who are learning to kill deer and fur. The country is all settled to the south of the mountains, and