

The above quantity of arable land has to supply the land needed for all purposes—gardens, field crops for ordinary purposes, and by and by for the production of food for cattle when the natural winter grazing lands may be insufficient, or partly exhausted. A portion of the land must occasionally be in fallow.

Should the above quantity of land appear at first sight small, it may be considered that it is not likely that all these Indians will become farmers, though they are more dependent on the land for their support than the coast Indians. Some of the old men will not cultivate land but will live with their sons, and probably a number of the young men will betake themselves to profitable occupations of various kinds, particularly should there be an increased demand for labor consequent upon the development of mining industries as seems likely to be the case.

An important observation may here be made. These arable lands from the nature of the soil, are not unlikely to be permanently damaged or worn out by unskillful irrigation or over cropping. The Province is bound by the agreement with Canada, to find more land when the Indians actually require it, but more arable land can only be got by buying out white settlers at a cost which every year will be increasing. This is an illustration, among many that could be given, to show how deeply the Province is concerned with the proper administration of Indian affairs. Without going into the question whether the Province could be fairly asked to find fresh lands at heavy cost, from time to time, in lieu of originally good lands worn out by bad treatment, it is obvious that if the Indians are permitted to ill-use their land they will become dissatisfied when it is exhausted, and the Indian question will come again to the front. Local supervision of these reserves is necessary.