

offered to pay the Indians themselves high wages if they would break fifteen or twenty acres, but could not induce them to do it. Next year, I trust, we will be in a position to let a job of ploughing early in the season so as to have it done in time to crop.

The two oxen owned by this band are of very little use, as one of them is blind and the other one is very old. I intend, if allowed to do so, to sell them for beef providing I get an opportunity to do so.

THE SWAN LAKE BAND

still refuse to go to their reserve at the Swan Lake in the southern part of the Province. They are encamped on a piece of land, known as the Indians Garden, which happens to be school land. They had some improvements on this place previous to the treaty being made with them.

They also planted thirty-six bushels of potatoes, three pounds of turnip seed, one pound of onion seed and one pound of carrot seed, furnished by the Government, and some wheat they supplied themselves with, amounting to six or seven acres in all. Their crops, at the time I was making the payments, were as good as any I saw in my travels. I informed them, at the time I was giving them the seed, that unless they went to their reserve this year they would not be paid. I also warned them, by written notice, to meet me on the reserve, on the 12th July, as that was the date fixed for payment, but they positively refused to go, consequently the greater portion of them have not been paid their annuity.

A few of them, who reside at the Portage, were willing to go to the reserve and come with me to where the main body were encamped, but were afraid to go further. Those, and a few old women who were not able to travel, I paid.

I reported to Mr. Superintendent Graham that they had taken forcible possession of the provisions, of which, I suppose, you have been already informed.

It will be necessary to come to some arrangement with this band, as there have been a number of complaints made by the white settlers in the neighborhood of their encampment, their horses destroying the crops of the settlers to a considerable extent, so much so, that in one case their horses were impounded and they were made to pay damages to a considerable amount.

I have done all in my power, for the past several years, in advising them to go on their reserve, but to no effect. They still claim the original reserve as theirs, and they are now threatening to drive the white settlers off, and if something is not done soon, I am afraid serious consequences between them and the whites may ensue.

THE SANDY BAY BAND

put in but very little crop this year, as their reserve had been flooded this spring, as usual, by the rise of the lake. Many of them made no preparations, having been discouraged by the high water. The few that did put in crops, planted on a high ridge back of the reserve and the crops look well.

The water in the lake at the present time is lower than it has been for several years, and I am in hopes, from present appearances, the lake will go back to its former level, and if so this reserve will be first class for stock raising and fishing. This band lost a number of cattle, last spring, by not being able to procure much hay last season, on account of the high water and the long winter.

Many of the young and able-bodied men of the several bands under my charge get steady employment on the railroad and with the farmers in haying and harvest time at high wages, sometimes getting as high \$2 per day.

THE BOSSEAU BANDS.

I visited these bands early in the month of June, but on account of the very high water this spring, they were all obliged to move off their reserve, and but very