

this cannot be said of other bands as a whole, still the exceptions are few where Indians were not able to take their own grist to the mill and return with it ground into flour.

Notwithstanding the fact that the number of Indians has gradually been on the increase, owing to accessions from the South, it will be found on a perusal of the Returns showing the quantities of supplies sent into the Carlton district, that it has been greatly on the decrease, thus showing a healthy advancement.

I have been enabled, owing to the progress made, to partially do away with the Duck Lake home farm, and have reduced the staff of employés down to the Instructor on this and on Farm 10.

The Agent of the Battleford District reports that his Indians, who until some year or two ago were the hardest to manage, are now docile and more or less amenable to reason, owing to the firm but just hand held over them. This District, no doubt, could have made a better showing in the way of reducing the aid rendered it, had there been a mill to which the Indians could have taken their produce. A marked change, and one of sufficient importance to be specially reported on by Agents, but which to those unacquainted with the habits of Indians might appear most trivial, though to officials of the Department it is a most gratifying evidence of a striking improvement, is that in most instances where reserves have been established, the Indians have been taught to protect their own crops from destruction by cattle and to turn them out of the field when committing damage—a matter possibly the most difficult to teach, as owing to their improvident nature, coupled with a modicum of laziness, they cannot be impressed at first with the importance of this simple branch of their duties. Some of our very best crops have been destroyed in this manner, while the Indian complacently folded his arms and smoked his pipe. Owing to the fact of so many Indians having, up to the present time, made the Cypress Hills their rendezvous, many reserves in this District, although numerically strong, have been extremely short of work hands, as the young and able preferred the romantic life of the South, leaving the old and infirm on the reserves, where the Department would be forced to attend to their wants. The Indians of Bear's Head and Lean Man's bands (Assiniboines), in the Eagle Hills, who although but in their first year on their reserves, have, as will be found on reference to the statement of Returns accompanying this, done well indeed, when one but remembers the efforts of those Indians who first began to till the soil. This, of course, is due in the main to the fact of having trained employés to take the new comers in charge, as well as the forcible example given by witnessing the successful results attending the efforts of their more advanced friends.

From the Western or Edmonton portion of Treaty 6, up to the end of the fiscal year favorable reports have been received. Here also an increased area of land under cultivation is recorded, which might have been augmented were the Indians in possession of more cattle. The Indians were orderly in their demeanor and obedient (as Indians are) to officials over them. But I regret to have to record the fact that during the latter part of the summer these Indians in large numbers and armed visited the Agent and made demands upon him such as he was unable to comply with. In their language the arguments of the white man were readily distinguished, and from reports made to me I am forced to the conclusion that the gathering and the demands were instigated by people, who in their position should have aided the authorities rather than have been abettors to a course which might have resulted in a manner more serious than it is pleasing to anticipate. Philanthropy, I fear, was not the main-spring which prompted these ill-disposed ones in advising the Indians.

A reference to the returns of produce will show the large increase in the yield. Some 1,500 to 2,000 Indians have during the past season been forced from the South to settle principally in the Battleford and Pitt districts of this Treaty. Owing to this fact I consider it advisable to place an official with the powers of a sub agent at Pitt in order to relieve the hands of the Agent, who up to this time had really more than he could well attend to. The question might naturally rise in the minds of