

journey, and relieved us of the issue of extra rations at this place. There are 529 Blackfeet being rationed at the Crossing at this date.

I enclose the usual monthly returns.

FORT MACLEOD, 30th May, 1881.

SIR,--I have the honor to inform you that I have just returned from visiting the Supply Farm at Pincher Creek.

I was much pleased with its location and the character of the soil; its situation is such as to insure for it, under proper management, unusual success.

The Farm Agent, Mr. Bruce, had his crops in early; they consist of sixty-five acres of barley, four acres of wheat, fifty acres of oats, twelve acres of potatoes, eight acres of turnips and carrots, and a good vegetable garden; he intends to sow fifteen acres more of turnips, or about 150 acres of land altogether. There are 315 acres of land broken upon this farm, and all but twenty acres are fenced; not being able to procure seed is the reason more has not been planted. In addition to the dwelling house and stable erected by contract, Mr. Bruce has built a blacksmith's shop, 16 by 18; a house for the workmen, 16 by 20; a coal house, 12 by 12; and a stable for eight horses; he has also excavated for a root house, which he purposes proceeding with the erection of without delay.

Excepting 1,000 pounds of potatoes, the potatoes planted were from seed grown upon his farm last year.

The workmen at present are:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Samuel Bruce, Agent | \$60 83 per month. |
| Harvey Bruce, Son of Agent | 35 00 " |
| Wellington Quail, Nephew..... | 35 00 " |
| Alex. Clark..... | 35 00 " |
| James H. Clark, Son of Alex..... | 35 00 " |
| Mrs. Clark, Wife of Alex. (Cook)..... | 35 00 " |
| Thos. T. A. Boys..... | 35 00 " |

You will observe that with one exception (Boys,) the entire staff of this farm are taken from two families. I have, in another place, already expressed my opinion regarding so many members of the same family being employed upon the same farm.

The elder Clark talked of returning to Ontario with his family, and I urged upon Mr. Bruce the advisability of allowing them to go; had I men here to make the exchange, I would also have proposed that Mr. Bruce's son and nephew should have exchanged on to another farm, but we are so situated at present that no such exchange can be made.

After sending the oxen belonging to this farm to the Blood reservation, Mr. Bruce was authorized to make purchases of some horses to take their place. I have no doubt he did the best he could, but the horses are generally too light for farm work; he has four span of horses, one lame horse, two native ponies, one saddle horse.

The labor account for this farm has been most excessive, and there is very little work to show for it, so much having been done by contract; even during the winter there were the Instructor, four men and a cook at a monthly wage of \$235.53, and about a like sum it cost for boarding them. This farm, as with the others and reservations, as soon as the work is done in the autumn, the hands, excepting one man to look after the stock with the Agent, should be discharged. I am quite sure that to attempt any work, excepting of necessity, in winter is a mistake, not from any fault of the climate, but somehow our Agents seem to be overburdened with sympathy, and so many days are by them considered too cold for either man or beast to be out.

As this section of the country is being rapidly located by settlers, I instructed Mr. Bruce to take an early opportunity, in order to avoid future complications, of staking out the boundaries of this farm. I rode over the ground with him. It was