

Farm No. 14 established on this reserve, acting farming instructor Mann being in charge. The Indians have harvested a large crop this year. I took an inventory of stores and goods, and carefully examined into the receipts and issues of the past year. The farm storehouse had been used as a depot of supplies for this district, but neither at Battleford nor Fort Pitt could I procure accounts of what supplies had been sent in by contractors or the Department. My return therefore, only covers the receipts of supplies at the farm storehouse as the farmer from time to time sent in for them to Fort Pitt by either the farm teams or freighters. I have no reason to think that he neglected to enter receipts in the books as received, but it would have been more satisfactory if the usual checks could have been made. Forty acres were harvested on the home farm, most of which promised a good yield when threshed. Upon the reserve 174 acres were harvested, 147 of which were barley, and eighteen acres of potatoes. The instructor states that out of 175 souls on the reserve he can only return twenty-four as working Indians, that is sufficiently strong for manual labor.

From this farm until I arrived at Edmonton I travelled in company with the Deputy Superintendent-General. We arrived at Farm No. 15, Frog Lake, at about ten o'clock on the night of the 24th September. The next forenoon I took an inventory of the stores and stock and examined the books. There were some discrepancies between the quantities here shown as received from the storehouse at Farm No. 14 and the quantities there charged. As the scales at both places are counter scales, and are not suited for receiving and shipping large quantities of supplies, it would be difficult to know which set of books is correct. Thirty-eight sacks of flour only averaged 93 pounds per sack, and as it was sent in from Fort Pitt was, no doubt, a portion of the 300 sacks already mentioned. The Indians about Frog Lake show very little return in the shape of farm improvements and crops, for the large amount of help given them by the Department during the past four years. It appears to be a case of feed them without producing upon the Indians minds the necessity of exerting themselves. One chief, Nepowhahow, has been away from his reserve all summer. Puskahagowin and Keeheewin are old, and themselves past work. Jackfish, the chief of the Chippewayans, died this summer. His band appears to think it is the Department's duty to feed them. They live in a fish country, and as there is a good deal of fur, I cannot see the necessity of their being fed as much as they are, as they devote very little time to farming. The men are big stalwart fellows, well able to work. They are rich in stock, having besides the treaty cattle and their offspring (which number twenty-one head) sixteen horses, sixteen oxen, ten cows, six bulls, nine heifers, two steers and ten calves. As the home farm 15 joins Nepowhahow's reserve, in giving up the cultivation of it on Government account, I would recommend that it be included and attached to the reserve, a like quantity of land being given in lieu from the west side; and the buildings, as I before stated, would make excellent and convenient headquarters for the Pitt district.

*Farm No. 16—Saddle Lake.*

Charles Carson, Farming Instructor.

The Agent did not receive the instructions regarding the closing of this farm, so far as working it on Departmental account was concerned, until it was too late to turn it over to the Indians to put in a crop. Crops were all injured in this vicinity by June frosts, and although the grain recovered somewhat from the effects, the potatoes are almost a total failure, so much so, that we may have to supply seed from other farms. Blue Quill, a headman of this band, who has settled with twelve or fifteen families upon the south side of the Saskatchewan nearly opposite Victoria, has agreed—I was informed by the Agent—to remove to Saddle Lake in the spring, and if he does so, the land broken up and worked as an Instructor's farm, will be divided amongst his followers. These Indians have not made the advancement I expected of them the past year, as losing crops by frost sadly discourages an Indian.