

made. This speaks well for the behaviour of the Blackfeet, who have had a bad name heretofore, when really they are as good and friendly a tribe as there is in this country. They have spoken on several occasions to me, asking me the meaning of the surveyors' mounds and stakes, telling me that they had been informed that wherever a mound was erected a house would be built. I have over and over again taken pains to fully explain the nature of the surveyor's work. They are so superstitious that they more readily listen to false reports than to the real truth.

Another question of importance is that relating to the coal seams on the Bow River, on the reserve both on the north and south sides. I have told them, and they fully understand, that the reserve on the south side only lasts for the ten years agreed in the treaty, and, of course, they have no claim to the coal on that side after that time. The term of ten years is now half over, so no question can arise about that, but the coal on the north side, and on the reserve, is a different matter. The Indians have an idea of its value, and, I think, could be got, with little trouble, to work it to their advantage. As the reserve on the north side is, by treaty, theirs forever, it would be well to set the matter of the coal seams at rest, which would have to be done at the same time that the change in the size of the reserve is made. I trust that these seams will remain the property of the Indians. Timber is scarce on this reserve, and in a few years little or none of it will remain, then coal will have to be used.

No cases of cattle killing by the Blackfeet have come to my notice this summer, although cattle belonging to the Cochrane Rancho Company have, on some occasions, been running on the reserve, close to the Indian villages. It is difficult to trust the young men among them, for if they happen to be out on the prairie alone and come across a herd of cattle, the temptation is great to kill one or two; therefore, it would be well if this temptation were not put in their way, and cattle from adjoining ranches kept away from the reserve. The summer has been a good and fine one, and large crops have been raised on all the reserves, with the exception of the Stoneys, where, as usual, early frosts destroyed what crops there were. The Bloods raised as much, I should think, as 200,000 lbs. of potatoes and a large quantity of turnips, also some oats and barley, but principally potatoes. The Piegan crop of potatoes, oats and barley is even greater than this. The Blackfeet have, I should think, about 100,000 lbs. of potatoes, some turnips, and some very good fields of barley for the first year's crop. The Sarcee crop is not very large, owing to the land being sod, and the potatoes being hurt by the frost in the early part of the summer.

The crops on the supply farms have been very good. There will be between one and two thousand bushels of oats on the Fish Creek Farm, also a large crop of peas and barley. The peas I shall send for seed to the reserves next spring, as I think they will be good to grow for food, the Indians can make soup out of them. As I have before mentioned the only way in which barley can be used is to have small mills to grind it. Previous to the harvest, I visited the reserves and advised the Indians to turn in as much seed for next year as possible, telling them that the Government would not furnish them with seed another year. I also had large root-houses built on the different reserves to hold this seed. The result is that the Indians have turned us over an abundance of potatoes, more than we can use for seed. The rest will be issued instead of flour. On the Blood reserve we have three root-houses full of potatoes, about 70,000 lbs., received in various quantities from different Indians, from one bag up as high as fifteen from individual Indians. The Bloods have, besides this large amount of seed, turned over to us many thousand pounds in their own root-houses. We have, in the last two months, allowed the Indians to use their potatoes, and have cut the ration one-half, that is to one-quarter pound. This has saved several hundred sacks of flour already, and I hope to keep to this ration for the winter. We shall require no seed on the Blood reserve next year, except a small quantity of turnip. We should be able to have double the amount of land in crop on that reserve next year.!