

*Crane River.*

As predicted last year, the crop of potatoes was the largest ever gathered, and in fact the largest of any in my district.

The fishing this year has diminished considerably, if compared with that of last year, as they spent nearly the whole of fishing time at home, putting away their potatoes and working on their new school house, which I expect will be completed this fall.

They had to stop operations for want of tools, but one of the traders advanced them sufficient to secure the necessary tools, windows, locks, hinges, &c., so that there is hardly any doubt of the school house being ready for occupation before winter sets in.

Their cattle are increasing, but a complaint was made that one of the oxen purchased for them last year was not giving proper satisfaction. I investigated this matter and wrote to the party from whom the ox was purchased demanding an explanation.

School was opened this year by William Sabistone, jun., in a temporary building, and as evidenced by the school returns, is giving the greatest satisfaction.

*Waterhen River.*

The Indians of this band have reason to be satisfied with everything,—good crops, good fishing, hunting returns satisfactory.

The school house is now complete, and I must state that it is the finest of any in my district. They are eager for the advent of a teacher, and, in sympathy with their eagerness, I have almost secured the services of a competent man, who, I expect, will take possession before the end of the year.

Their cattle are also in good condition and are increasing.

Large portions of the reserve which were under water last year, are now uncovered and drying fast.

They have erected several new houses and stables, and expect to gather up more hay to meet the increase in their cattle.

*Duck Bay.*

The Indians here are making steady progress, and from the quantity of land under cultivation, their crops cannot but increase if they have favorable weather.

They have nearly doubled their potatoe crop of last year, and are sanguine of a still larger crop this season.

The Government cattle are, however, decreasing, as all that remains of them is a heifer. The bull they had last year had to be killed, having become so savage as to endanger the lives of the Indians, and one cow, which was taken out of the reserve by Baptiste Quewezane, died accidentally before she was brought back. However, the cow will be replaced by Quewezane, and in regard to the bull, they are awaiting the decision of the Department.

The new school house, while in course of erection, had to be abandoned, as the Indians ran short of provisions, but they promised to resume work at once.

They are desirous that school should be started here this coming winter, and they have a house ready awaiting the arrival of the teacher. They ask that the Government should supply them with a yoke of oxen, because their chief, Kisiconse, never delivered to them the yoke which the Government had given him for that purpose. Michel Chartrand, sen., asks for the grant of a plough and harrows.

The land broken by him is sufficient to warrant his request, as some parts of his broken lands have to remain uncultivated, owing to the use of grub-hoes being insufficient to prepare the land in time for sowing.

Six families of this band could not be paid this year, as the amount given to me for payment in my district was insufficient.