

I am glad to be able to report that none of the young men left their reserve on horse stealing expeditions, for on several occasions strange horses have been brought to me by the chief asking to whom they belonged.

I have more than once been able to return horses to the settlers through this; the settler always paying the Indian for his trouble. Once or twice reports were made to me that the Blackfeet had been killing cattle, but, upon making full enquiries, nothing tangible came to light. Some few carcasses were found not far from the north-western limits of the reserve, but whether they were killed or died from the inclemency of the weather, I was unable to find out. The contractor's men complained that the Indians had killed some of their beef cattle, but although I went into the matter fully, nothing came of it. I scarcely think they would be so foolish as to kill their own supplies.

This year spring was exceedingly late, and we could not start ploughing until late in April, fortunately we got four good horses from the Fish Creek Farm, and with those on the reserve, and the oxen, we were enabled to do all our own ploughing with Departmental teams. The Indians did all their fencing and harrowing in their crops with their own horses.

The Blackfeet are not very rich in horses, and there was considerable mortality among them caused by an infectious disease (scale or mange) which was very prevalent. The Department horses were also badly affected, and as we did not have the proper medicines, little or nothing could be done for them.

Taking everything into consideration, the Blackfeet have done fairly well, having some twenty or thirty acres more under crop this year than last. The weather still continuing cold with early frosts, in May and June vegetation was slow; fortunately, of late we have had some very fine rain, which has helped the crops immensely. I do not think that any section of the country can compare its crops with ours. We have sown a few acres with wheat, and up to date the trial is more than satisfactory. If it should eventually prove a success, I purpose putting in as much as I can in the fall, sufficiently late to prevent germinating, which will give it a month or six weeks start in the spring. Potatoes, turnips, carrots and onions are doing splendidly; barley and oats not as well as I could wish, as owing to being cut with June frosts, they are somewhat stunted in growth. I trust they are not permanently damaged. In the early spring, a good deal of sickness was prevalent among the young children, taking the form of cholera; several deaths occurred; this was attributed to the Indians building their root houses near other dwelling houses, and in some instances the door communicating with the root house opened into the dwelling, I prevailed upon the Indians to take to their lodges for a time and have a thorough clean up; this was done. During the month just past a more serious disease broke out, taking the form of a fever, but whether the mountain fever of the country or something worse I cannot tell, doubtless Dr. Girard will report on it.

I was glad to find that a doctor had been appointed to this Treaty, as I fear sickness is much on the increase, and now that the Indians have a medical practitioner especially to look after them, I am in hopes their health will be better. About the end of May a party of graders arrived and began operations at Crowfoot Creek. Later on more followed, until at length graders were working the whole length of the reserve. I made a point of visiting the camps daily, and from questions put often to the contractors as to the conduct of the Indians, in every case the reply was, "They are no trouble at all, and are really well-behaved." I requested the contractors not to feed them, as knowing only too well, if they did so, their camp would never be clear; and in the event of trouble to send for me, when I would go immediately. I am happy to say I was not sent for once. I think this speaks highly for the Blackfeet. The Instructor, Mr. Wheatley, and the Interpreter, Mons. L'Heureux, deserve both thanks and praise for a good deal of this.

The Blackfeet have a very fine reserve, and even though timber is fast becoming scarce, there will be no danger of the Indians suffering for the want of fuel, as there is plenty of first-rate coal on the reserve. The only trouble is the lack of stones; but I am in hopes this may be overcome, as the Indians will increase their agricultu-