

out good ploughmen, mowers, and, in fact, good useful farm hands; but as so many of their friends are constantly coming in from the plains, where it is now impossible to make a living, the produce raised does not make such a good show as it would had the consumption been confined to those families who had actually settled.

In Treaty 7, the Stoney Indians, who for a couple of years back have made an attempt at farming, and who have shown a greater desire to improve, have made considerable advancement since an instructor was sent to assist them.

Each of these bands under Bears Paw, Chiniquey, and Jacob, will have sixty acres under crop next year. They have this fall received the cattle promised them at the time of the treaty. The cows and calves, belonging to each family, are branded with a number that corresponds with the number opposite the names on the pay-lists as well as the band brand; each family will consequently know their own cattle, and take a greater interest in them, than if they had been turned over bodily to the chiefs. They received 198 cows, 51 calves, 6 bulls and 6 young steers. They were an excellent lot of young cows, and I believe these Indians will take pride in them, and their reserve being located in one of the best cattle districts I have no fear but that they will increase very rapidly, and in three years should produce as much meat as those Indians should require.

These Stoney Indians have had the advantage of the advice of the Reverend John Macdougall, who accompanied the chiefs to Fort Macleod at the time they received their cattle. He believes, from his knowledge of these Indians, that they will take the greatest care of their cattle.

These bands of Indians are good hunters and trappers, and spend a good deal of their time in the Rocky Mountains, between the Boundary line and Jasper House. They will require but small assistance from the Government, and in a short time, I trust, will be quite independent.

The Piegans, whose reserve is on the Old Man's River, near Fort Macleod, have also made a good commencement. They settled for the first time this spring and have had over a hundred acres under crop. They have built fifty houses. Ten of those families have exchanged some of their horses for stoves, while others have built fireplaces. They also have received their cattle, which are branded similarly to those given to the Stoneys; but with their own distinguishing brand. As these cattle will range with the other portion of the Government herd that have not been as yet delivered, I feel sure they will do well.

One or two of the chiefs of the band have had a few cattle of their own for a year or two, and have taken great care of them; and I am in hopes the same will be the case with the other Indians who have lately become possessed of theirs.

I have instructed the agents to notify the Indians, that as their cattle are given them by the Government in order that they might raise their own meat, any family killing them will be debarred from any further assistance from the Government.

The Bloods, a portion of the Blackfoot Nation, and representing the largest number, notified me last year that they were not content with the reserve as agreed upon to be given them at the time of the treaty. I reported this matter to the Government last winter, and an Order in Council was passed authorizing Colonel Macleod and myself to meet the chiefs and endeavor to make a satisfactory arrangement, by which the wishes of the Bloods could be carried out.

On arriving at Fort Macleod, I found a large portion of the Blood Indians awaiting my arrival, for the purpose of hearing what determination the Government had come to in regard to that matter. As Colonel Macleod was at Fort Walsh, and I knew would be delayed for some time; and that Crowfoot, the only Blackfoot Chief from whom any opposition might be expected was across the line, where he had been for over a year, and not likely to return, I informed the Blood Chief that if he would give me a release of all his interest in the reserve situated at the Blackfoot Crossing, provided the Government would give him a reserve at the point he indicated, I would send an instructor with him and his band to the spot selected by himself, where he could build houses and prepare some ground for next season, and that I