

Great sickness has prevailed on the reserve, and many deaths have occurred.

Great destitution prevailed during the winter, and it was necessary to extend aid, to alleviate, in some measure, the sufferings of the Indians. The number of work oxen in its possession gives one yoke to every 26.5 souls; and a team included in the estimate has become useless, and will shortly be condemned.

The proportion of working power to the number of persons will thus be reduced, and their further progress be rendered slower than heretofore.

All their hay and feed was destroyed by fire during the time of spring work, and provision for the cattle had to be made by the Department.

#### *Northern Reserves.*

These have another year of steady progress to record, though laboring under some disadvantages that have not oppressed the aforementioned bands. Their occupants have from forty-five to seventy-five miles to travel, respectively, to the nearest mills, and are the same distance from a market in which to dispose of any grain surplus that they may produce.

On account of their somewhat isolated position, it is considered to be all important to their welfare that they should be led to depend, as far as possible, on their own resources, and to this end the latter must be most carefully nurtured and cultivated. The proposal, with this end in view, to introduce trades into the reserves, has been already referred to. All such work as repairing the wood work of implements, making plough beams, carts, sashes, doors, &c., &c., may be done on the reserves as well as elsewhere, and as that of Mistowasis occupies a central position, it is the best point for the establishment of any industry.

The necessity of having a mill in this neighborhood has, it is believed, been recognized by the Department, and it need only therefore be reported that the Indians are most anxious to know that something definite is being done in the matter, as they feel that unless they have greater facility for grinding their crop, it is useless to cultivate a larger area than they now do.

The truth of their belief is obvious, as it has been seen that last winter was spent almost entirely in travelling to and from the mills. It may be mentioned that there is good water power on and in the vicinity of Mistowasis Reserve.

#### *Mistowasis' Band*

Is, for the most part Presbyterian. The mission and school of this denomination are respectively in charge of the Rev. J. and Miss McKay. Writing desks are needed for the school.

A case of trespass on the reserve was brought to my notice, and steps were at once taken to remove the intruder. The introduction of gambling was stopped, as elsewhere mentioned, as the practice is one which seriously interferes with habits of industry and thrift.

The band sustained itself entirely last winter, and nearly all that had previously farmed provided themselves with flour and seed, with which to put in their crops this spring.

The want of a threshing and fanning mill is greatly felt, the former especially being much needed.

The increase of acreage will be observed by reference to the accompanying statement.

#### *Atakakoop's Band.*

The remarks made on the foregoing band refer to a great extent, to this one also.

A great loss of timber was sustained by it this spring, by the prairie fires running into the "bluffs" and woods on the reserves.