

I might mention that the crops on this reserve last year were all destroyed. The oats being quite late, met the same fate that was common to all the crops in that part of the country, being killed by the frost. The potatoes, although a very fair crop, were also all lost by being frozen when being dug and improperly pitted, through the carelessness of the Farm Instructor who had charge of the reserve at the time. Those that were pitted I found in one frozen mass when I went out this spring to get seed, and was therefore obliged to purchase.

#### *The Sandy Bay Band.*

This band was unable to make any progress for the past three or four years, on account of the high water; but I have every reason to hope that hereafter will be able to make rapid improvements, on account of the water in the lake having become several feet lower than it has been for some years.

This reserve is well adapted for stock raising and fishing. It never can be of much use for growing grain. Potatoes and other roots are about all that can be raised to advantage; but, notwithstanding, the Indians are well satisfied with it. They can raise any number of cattle with very little labor, and have the very best shelter for them in the numerous thickly-set bluffs adjacent to the lake, where they can have water in abundance at all seasons of the year.

They planted this year over one hundred bushels of potatoes, two-thirds of a bushel of corn, some peas and some of the smaller seeds, all of which looked very promising when I was making the payment of annuities on the 22nd July.

They have a pretty good supply of horses and horned cattle nearly all of their own raising, having only received from the Government one yoke of oxen, one of which strayed away shortly after. They are anxious to get the bull and cows they are entitled to under Treaty. Their stock consists at present of twenty-five horses and fifty-one head of horned cattle. They have hay in abundance this year. They have a fair supply of boats, one or two light waggons and a few carts. The chief of this band died since my last annual report. He died during the winter. He was a very old man and had been very feeble for some time. I caused an election of a chief to take place this year before I commenced paying them. There were two men proposed for the position, and I caused a regular poll to be taken, the one candidate receiving twenty-seven votes and the other twenty-five votes. The name of the chief elect is Francois Demarais. He was an adopted child of the old chief.

They put up a very good hewed log building, 18 x 24 feet, for a school house. It was ready for the inside furnishing, with the exception of the roof and floor, which I expect to be soon completed, so that the doors, windows, desks and seats can be put in.

They built several new houses this year, making them very neat and comfortable, with good thatched roofs, and the logs were hewed inside and out, and they are making preparations for larger gardens another year. In many of their gardens I saw some of the finest corn and potatoes that I have seen in my travels.

#### *The Rolling River Band.*

This band was formerly under the supervision of Mr. Agent Herchmer. It appears to be composed of Indians from different reserves in the west. They have no regular chief and head men, and no regularly laid out reserve. The only land belonging to them is a quarter section purchased for them by the Government last winter from John Cameron.

I started for the Rolling River to make the payment of annuities on the 30th of July, and reached the encampment of the Indians about 11 o'clock of the 31st. I found the Indians encamped in a beautiful valley at the junction of the Little Saskatchewan and Rolling Rivers, where I also met Mr. Agent Herchmer with the supplies. I informed the Indians that I would deliver to them their supplies at the house on the quarter-section, which had been purchased for them by the Govern-