

the old land, is now well fenced. He returns 189 souls on the reserve, but only twenty-six working Indians, there being a great many old people and children who are unable to work, and the chief was very infirm. The land in the reserve is light and sandy, and will not bear continuous cropping.

*Poundmaker's Band.*

This band has not done very well this year, as the chief did not remain on the reserve, which unsettled his people. Instructor Ballentine does not speak highly of him, reporting him as hard to manage and always discontented. They are well provided with the means of working, having been supplied with a large number of oxen, implements and tools, by the Department.

*Farm No. 13.*

Moosomin Reserve, D. L. Klink, Farming Instructor. He reports seventy souls on the reserve, twelve only of whom are returned as working Indians, there being many old people. The crop, which is estimated at ninety acres, looks remarkably well. Thunder Child, with his followers, has worked here along with Moosomin during the past year, and now wishes to go on the reserve laid out for him. The instructor says he is a good worker.

*Indian Office, Battleford.*

I examined the books and accounts and compared them carefully with the bills of lading on file. The following books were in use in the office, and I take pleasure in testifying to the carefulness with which they are now being kept by the clerk, Mr. Lash: Voucher book, register of letters, implement book, ledger of shipments to other districts, detail issue of provisions to straggling destitute Indians and Indians at the office on business, blotter which shows the particulars of detail issue, letter book containing copies of all letters and statements, index of letter book with subject, vouchers numbered, entered and quadruplicate filed, school returns, all triplicates filed, also receipts for teachers salaries, and an order book which contains orders for all goods going out of store, also receipts for all goods going in and which is checked with the storeman's book once each month; all telegrams are copied in the letter book. I took an inventory of the goods in store and found the storehouse in excellent order, Mr. Carney, the storekeeper, having a thorough knowledge of his business.

I left Battleford for the Fort Pitt district, on the 12th September. Acting sub-agent Quinn is in charge there. As this has only recently been opened as an Agency there was little work to do at the Indian Office, beyond taking an inventory of the goods on hand. Mr. Quinn had very carefully opened out a new set of books, and was using as his office a room in a building in the Hudson Bay Co's fort. As soon as it is settled where Big Bear is to take his reserve, I would recommend that the office and storerooms be removed to a more convenient point, that the Agent may live as near to the group of reserves as practicable. He will thus be better able to attend to the wants of the Indians than he can possibly do at a distance. As this point will be somewhere in the neighborhood of Frog Lake, the dwelling, storehouse and stables of farm No. 15 might with advantage be utilized. I took an inventory of the goods and supplies on hand at Fort Pitt storeroom. The flour was what was left of 300 sacks received there by Indian Agent Rae in July, I believe. Of the quantity in my inventory I weighed fifty-five sacks, making a nett weight of 5,154 lbs., instead of 5,390 lbs. As this gave an average of nearly 93½ lbs. to each sack the total shortage on the 300 sacks would have been equal to 1,300 lbs. The flour had been received in thin sacks. The mowers and ploughs were not from the makers required in the contracts.

*Sekaskoots Reserve.*

The easterly line of this reserve comes within five miles of Fort Pitt, but the Indians generally are farming nearer the western side of the reserve. We have