

as to having enough and to spare in cereals when threshed. I cause each Indian who has raised anything to store with the Farming Instructor double the quantity of seed sown by him the current year without receiving any remuneration therefor." Some of the Indians from the south in conjunction with a few of the worthless Indians on the reserves tried to force our Agent to make the payments off the reserves, Mr. Reed informs me "although up to the time of transmitting my report to the Right Honorable the Superintendent-General, no objection had been raised by any of the bands as to the payments being made on their respective reserves. I now have to report that all of the more worthless members of several of the bands joined by the late arrivals from the south positively refused to take their payments on the reserves. These spent some two or three weeks in a fruitless endeavor to get me to pay them in town, to all their entreaties I turned a deaf ear and eventually gained my point. As a slight punishment for this misbehaviour on their part I directed that no tea, tobacco, &c., usually given at the payment time, be issued them."

Poundmaker, one of the principal and most intelligent chiefs in the Battleford District, and in respect to whom, when he first settled, it was very doubtful whether his Indians could make their own living, wrote me the following letter last month, I quote it to show that while only a short time ago you never heard a request for anything else but food, they now feel that, with assistance in the shape of implements, tools and cattle they can make themselves self-supporting.

POUNDMAKER'S RESERVE, 10th November, 1882.

"EDGAR DEWDNEY, Esq.,
"Indian Commissioner.

"HONORABLE SIR,—It is Poundmaker who takes the liberty to send you a few lines. He entreats your honor to send to him the grist mill, with horse-power, you so kindly promised him at Cypress. We expected it last summer, but in vain. The consequence is we do not know what to do with our wheat, and have to starve, besides our big stacks of grain.

"Please send likewise, wrenches in sufficient numbers for our ploughs.

"Let me have twenty-two oxen you promised for my band. There are here sixteen or seventeen oxen, but we cannot use them as we like. Our farmer is the master of them all. If those cattle were delivered into our hands, I hope that we would show a good deal more work.

"We have been always short of implements; last spring we could not even get a sufficient supply of seed in the shape of potatoes and wheat. Some Indian corn has succeeded well. Allow me to ask a little supply for next spring of Indian corn (early kind).

"Please let us have a good supply of implements and we will do our best to support ourselves as soon as possible out of our farms.

"There is to-day a great distress in my band. The rations are suspended now for 41 days, and, of course, everybody is busy roving about and hunting. It is impossible to work with an empty stomach. There will be no work during the whole winter on that account, and it will cause a great delay to the progress of our farms.

"I trust the Government will be able to give us or rather to continue to us a substantial help a little while longer, until we are able to support ourselves. It seems to me that we are as anxious to be independent as the Government are to get rid of the burden of supporting us.

"In the name of my poor people, I have taken the liberty of writing to our Governor.

"Your most humble servant,

"POUNDMAKER."

In the Edmonton District the reports are favorable, and Mr. Inspector Wadsworth, who was some time in that District, will report to you fully on Indian matters there.