

periods ranging from five to eight months, according to the quantity of produce raised on each reserve.

The harvest of the past season was not so bountiful; indeed, on many of the reserves the return was insufficient to supply seed for the ensuing Spring. The Indians appear in no instance to have been discouraged, as increased areas of land for planting were ploughed last Autumn, with the expectation of a more propitious season in 1890.

The importance of the education of the young appears to have taken a deeper hold upon the minds of many of the Indians of the North West, and many of whom previously were indifferent, if not actually opposed to the education of their children, appear to have changed their views, and this has been followed by their children being voluntarily sent to day schools, or entered at the boarding or industrial institutions.

This revolution of feeling is most noteworthy in the Blackfeet, for whose children the Industrial School at High River was specially instituted, but who until within the last year had evinced a strong disinclination to permit them to enter it; and when by dint of continued persuasion on the part of Missionaries, Indian agents, and others, any of their children were sent to the institution they were barely admitted before their parents or guardians would, on one pretext or another, remove them. Within the past year, however, as many as twenty one out of forty-nine children in residence at that school are Blackfeet.

The increased number of pupils enrolled on the Registers of the day schools on the various reserves, and the augmentation of the daily average attendance at those institutions indicate a healthy growth of sentiment in favour of education. The establishment of boarding schools at various points is calculated to have a beneficial effect on the minds of the Indians, as well as to insure the accomplishment more effectually of the object in view. The adoption more universally of the plan of giving a mid-day meal at day schools to the pupils would appear to be warranted by the success in securing a larger attendance which has resulted from the trial of the experiment at schools at which this inducement has been extended to the children. The meal, as in those instances, might consist of the share of the children's rations, which otherwise would be delivered to their parents. This plan has the double effect of inducing the children to go regularly to school for their dinners, and of making it an object with the parents to send them, for if the children remain at home their parents would have to feed them with their own rations, and with those of their children who are not of an age to attend school.

Digressing from intellectual to material subjects, that of stock raising by Indians appears to call for special remark; and it affords me pleasure to report that from all the agencies, except one, in the North West where cattle are raised most satisfactory reports of the increase in their number have been received.

This is a practical proof of the interest taken in and the care bestowed upon the cattle by their Indian owners. The system of "mixed farming" namely, raising live stock and cultivating the soil, pursued as it is by not a few bands in the North West with better-results every year, is calculated eventually to bring about the desired end of rendering them self-supporting.

Sheep raising has also been successful on several of the reserves; and the increase in the number of swine on some of them is encouraging. The herds of