

Besides 1,040 bushels of potatoes, they have also raised 32 bushels of wheat, 128 bushels of barley, 5 bushels of oats, 7 bushels of carrots and 9 bushels of turnips, besides stacking 350 tons of hay. They killed more fish than last year, but the fur hunting was no better; in fact, the Indians begin to realize that fur-bearing animals are decreasing yearly, and they therefore turn their attention to farming more than they did in the past. Their cattle are steadily increasing: They lost two cows this year; one having died from sickness, while the other was gored to death by a mad bull; a cow was exchanged for a mare and colt without my knowledge or permission, but I had it returned to the band. A two year old heifer was killed by Councillor Sanderson, but he replaced her with a cow. In view of the large increase of young stock, I consider that the different bands should be supplied with a branding iron, so that the Government cattle might be easily found in case of their straying away or being exchanged without my knowledge or that of the chief and councillors.

At the meeting which I held after the payments were over, I was glad to hear the chief mention his sorrow at the growing immorality among the Indians of his band, and express his willingness to try and stamp it out as much as he could. He stated that, together with his councillors, they had decided not to admit any more natural children as members of the band, and asked also if, in case the fathers of such children were known, they could be made to support their offspring. The chief was also pleased to hear that the by-laws asked for had been sanctioned, and he hopes that a great deal of good will accrue to the reserve from the fact of their being in force. He asked that the Department might kindly replace the cow that died through sickness. He called my attention to the four and a-half acres of land which he has under cultivation, and told me that he was going to break up two more acres this fall, praying, at the same time, the Government to grant him a plow and harrows for his own use. While speaking of this, he expressed himself strongly in favor of farming, and said that in future he wished to rely solely on farming for the bread of himself and family, and that he did not intend to go hunting any more. If he does as he promises to do, his example will be of great benefit to the other Indians of his band.

The Indians there were greatly disappointed at not receiving their grist mill yet, but upon my assuring them that it was coming, they were satisfied.

The inspection of the schools under the Rev. Geo. Bruce and Wm. Anderson, was a very pleasing feature of my visit to Fairford. That of Mr. Bruce is, of course, superior to the other, his competency as a teacher being recognized, and the attendance at his school being so large, he naturally feels encouraged in his work.

The pupils are taught spelling, reading and writing; they are also made to explain what they read. Their translation of Indian words and sentences into English shews that they are toiling hard to acquire the English language. Some of the pupils are also studying grammar, while the majority of them seem pretty well up in geography. Some very good singing was also heard, although the children seemed a little shy in the presence of strangers.

The inspection of Wm. Anderson's school was a pleasant surprise to me, as I found great progress there. The children are all taught according to Mr. Bruce's system, and have also the same branches of study. Before parting with the Indians of this band, a final meeting was held, and proved to be very satisfactory to all concerned. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Inspector McColl clearly defined my relation to them as Indian agent, and explained my duty as such. This will be of great help to me, and will facilitate the proper discharge of my duties, as for some time past the Indians were growing indifferent to my endeavors to forward their interests.

After having answered all questions asked of him, and given the Indians sound advice on everything of interest to them, the Rev. Mr. Bruce gathered all the school children together, and while the general shaking of hands was taking place, the children were heard sweetly singing "God Save the Queen."

Having some more gardens to inspect at the lower reserve, and some on the west side of the river, I visited all of them before the day ended.