

are forty dwellings in this "upper camp," but all, with the exception of six are old and dilapidated. Very few Indians were at home, and the members of the band have not lived in their houses since the "Sun dance."

"Big Swan" across the river had twelve acres of wheat, ten acres of potatoes, one acre of turnips, one-quarter acre of carrots and a garden of one-quarter of an acre. The fencing was good and there was a promise of a fair crop. There are eight houses and a few stables in this settlement. There are twenty-seven ploughs on the reserve, every one of them more or less out of repair. I suggested to the agent that, directly after hay making, the instructor should be directed to discharge three of his farm laborers and the old interpreter who is worn out and useless; that an able bodied interpreter who would be capable of assisting in the issue of rations, should be hired in his place; then, with one white man and a woman cook, the work would go on economically and well. Any extra labor required could be had by employing Indians at 50 cents. per day.

School.

There was a school kept for part of last winter on this reserve. The teacher was a Cree Métis, named Falster, who, last year, was teamster to Mr. Agent Rae, at Battleford.

The flour and other supplies were of good quality, and put up according to the terms of the contract. I took an accurate inventory of the flour, bacon, tea, beef, agricultural implements, tools, live stock, &c., and audited the books.

Blood's Reserve.

I attended at the slaughtering of the cattle and the issuing of the rations upon several occasions on this reserve. The building of a pen by the contractors, in which to slaughter, has been a move in the right direction, but there are still other measures that can be taken with advantage, such as the erection of windlasses and digging a well for a pump. The meat house windows should be furnished with wire gauze, so that when open for purposes of ventilation, flies may not be able to enter.

A room to protect the Indians from the inclemency of the weather, while waiting their turn, should be constructed, adjoining the ration house. I recommend the same change regarding the receipt and issue of the heads, tongues, hearts, &c., as at the Piegan Reserve. If followed implicitly, I believe it will result in a large saving to the Department, besides promoting greater exactitude in the book-keeping.

The new agency buildings have been occupied since the spring. They are a great improvement on anything our Department has yet had in buildings. They consist of one ration house, twenty by forty feet; one flour store, twenty by forty feet; one supply storehouse, eighteen by twenty feet; instructor's house, office and mess-room of seven rooms and a hall, sixty by twenty feet; men's sleeping quarters, sixteen by eighteen feet; Indian council room, eighteen by twenty feet; stable, twenty by thirty feet, with hay loft; horse corral, fifty by sixty feet; hay corral, twenty by eighty feet. The beef contractors have built a slaughter corral (pen), of thirty by thirty feet.

The flour and other supplies were of good quality. I audited the books, and found them well kept. The receipts shown therein agreed with the quantities charged against the reserve at the agency. I took an inventory of all Departmental property upon the reserve.

Farm Work.

There has been steady improvement in agriculture amongst the members of this tribe, but I cannot attribute it so much to their industry as to the assiduity of the farming instructor, Mr. McCord. He is most indefatigable in the performance of his duties.