

At the time of writing all the Indians who went to Qu'Appelle are located, or about locating on reserves, and those who first went north are seeking suitable places on which to settle.

Although the steps met with not a little opposition on being advanced, I have for a long time past been convinced that if Fort Walsh were abandoned both by the Indian Department and the Mounted Police, the inclination for the Indians to congregate in the neighborhood would be reduced to a minimum; the result has shewn that these conjectures were right, for so soon as the proposition was acted upon most of these Indians were shortly afterwards prevailed upon to leave the locality, and those who remained followed the Police to Maple Creek. If Maple Creek were in turn abandoned, or but a small force of men were left there, the Indians would probably disperse, because there would then be little likelihood of their receiving help during the coming winter.

I look upon the removal of some 3,000 Indians from Cypress and scattering them through the country as a solution of one of our main difficulties, as it was found impossible at times to have such control as was desirable over such a large number of worthless and lazy Indians, the concourse of malcontents and reckless Indians from all the bands in the Territories. Indians already on their reserves will now be more settled, as no place of rendezvous will be found where food can be had without a return of work being exacted, a fact which tended materially to create much discontent among those who were willing to remain on their reserves, as well as to increase the laborious duty of our agents.

I am happy to say that the expenditure in connection with the transport of these Indians is markedly lower than that of last year, although a much greater number were moved. I have little doubt but that next year I shall have it to report that every band in the Territories is settled on a reserve.

The Assiniboines who have for the second time been placed on their reserve at Indian Head are now quite contented and doing well.

Pi-a-pot, after much delay and after failing in an attempt to disorganize the different bands of Indians in Treaty No. 4, gave an assurance in writing to the Agent that he would go to his reserve and remain there; he moved to it, and has consequently been paid his annuity money, and I do not anticipate any further trouble from him.

I am glad to be able to report that those Indians who have settled on their reserves have shown, during this season, a better disposition to work than heretofore, and this has been the case all over the Territories. I find among the old settled reserves, that the cry for rations is not so persistent as it was, but tools, implements, and power to work with, are incessantly asked for.

The closing of Farms 1 and 2, Treaty 4, and engaging one or two men to superintend the spring work, has had a beneficial effect; and these Indians now see that they will eventually be thrown on their own resources.

Mr. Herchmer reports that most of the bands in his Agency have made considerable advancement. Côté (who has remained constantly on his reserve since the Treaty) has sown a greater breadth than usual, and has done all the work without white supervision. This band possesses a large number of private cattle.

Kee-see-coo's band has done well, both in sowing and looking after cattle; their houses are well built and clean. The "Key's" band have only been settled a year, but are doing very well. These three bands had been under the supervision of Mr. Farming Instructor Johnson until this year, when his services were dispensed with, and they have worked this season without any instructor. Way-way-see-cappo's band is not making much progress. He is a bad chief, and has had better opportunities of improving than most Indians; his reserve is one of the best in the Territories, and as they have no difficulty in making a living by hunting, working for the settlers and cultivating their own lands, a large area of which is broken, I propose to give them very little assistance in future. The "Gamblers'" Reserve is also a very good one, and in the heart of the settlement, where the young men can make a good living by their labor, should they prefer that to cultivating their own ground.