

#### FARMING.

The farming was most interesting. No farm instructor here comes to incite the lagging or berate the lazy, but these Sioux farm of their own motion. Our visit was paid on the 26th of August, and almost all the wheat was cut and in stook; in some cases stacking was going on. The thirty horses owned on the reserve are sufficient for farm operations, and yet are not so numerous as to suggest the roaming tendency so prevalent among the western Indians. We found on enquiry that there are about two hundred acres under cultivation on the reserve, which would be an average of some seven acres per family. Take one example, "Ben." This Indian has twelve acres under crop. His wheat is excellent and is partly cut. We found his son busy mending his reaper. It was not a self-binder but was serviceable. The young man had mended in a workmanlike manner a difficult part of the woodwork of the machine. The cooking stove outside the house was preparing dinner, and after partaking of this, Ben junior would attack the grain remaining. The children were cooking before the stove green ears of Indian corn of which a plantation was near. Ben had also several acres of oats, potatoes and turnips.

#### STOCK RAISING.

The Sioux are found engaging in mixed farming and in this show themselves wise. The writer was not able to obtain the quantity of stock belonging to private parties, as distinguished from that owned by the Government. But from the age of the reserve and the industrious character of the Sioux, it seems probable that most of the stock is private property. It will be seen that this is considerable. There are on the reserve 43 cows, 52 oxen, and 35 young stock — making in all 130 head of cattle. Perhaps the most noticeable feature of stock raising is the large number of sheep belonging to the Sioux. There are no less than 87 sheep on the reserve. The growth of sheep is perhaps one of the best indications of progress of an Indian band. The sheep need care and require protection from prairie wolves and the innumerable dogs that infest an Indian settlement. The product of the sheep can be utilized in many ways. The large flock of this reserve destroys what used to be a treasured belief of the western plains that sheep could not be reared in the Northwest. It is a suggestive circumstance, which no doubt the watchful ethnologists