

While visiting the various bands in this agency, I advised them to get out fencing for their gardens ere the snow thawed. This, I am glad to say, they did at the Pas and Birch River in real earnest.

The Pas Reserve, being in the immediate neighborhood, is the one I most frequently visit, and it will consequently be most frequently referred to in my report.

At seed time I went down to that part of the Pas Reserve where most of the Indians live, for the purpose of teaching and assisting them to sow their wheat.

Seed time over, and having received instructions from Mr. Inspector McColl to visit the Pas Mountain and inspect the land which some of the Pas Band wish to have given them for a reserve, I proceeded thither; but with difficulty reached the place, owing to the low stage of water. I examined a portion of the land, a report of which I have already submitted to the Department.

While at the Mountain, I advised the Indians to break up new land with the hoe (for they have no ox) this summer, and promised to ask the Department if wheat could be given them for all the land already under cultivation, and also a small mill. This, for the most part, they promised to do; and some seemed to think better days were coming, and were struck with what I reminded them about their hunting in former days only resulting in poverty now; whereas, if they cultivate the soil, they will see more lasting good results.

Soon after my return from the Pas Mountain, I went (according to instructions received) up to Cumberland, to consult with those Indians of that reserve who desire to be settled on a more arable piece of land. Some thirty families have asked to be removed to the vicinity of Fort a la Corne. I informed them, by instructions from Mr. Inspector McColl, that the land they ask for is reserved for public purposes, and is not available for an Indian reserve. I have already reported the result of this meeting, which is simply this,—the thirty families in question are unwilling to settle anywhere else, and again ask the Department to be allowed to go to Fort la Corne.

While returning from Cumberland, I went across the portage to Birch River, and met a number of the Indians of that reserve in the Councillor's house.

The gardens of the Birch River Indians do them credit, and they have made good use of the little seed given them from time to time.

I advised these Indians also to break up new land this summer, and told them if they promised to do so, I would try and get a supply of wheat for them sufficient to sow all the old ground next spring. To my astonishment they immediately stood up to signify their decided intention to do as I wished them.

The Birch River Indians ask for a small mill, wherewith to grind their grain; and also to have a resident Chief.

Birch River is a fine reserve, though nearly all wood land, and in seasons of very high water, is, in some places, in danger of being flooded.

The Indians at this reserve are decidedly progressing and are unceasingly building fairly good houses. They wish to farm, but do not receive enough seed grain.

The portage, from Birch River to the main Saskatchewan, is a distance of about three miles. The Indians constantly use this portage to obtain fish from the river. This summer they are making a wider and better road. They ask the Department for a horse and cart, for use in hauling their fish across the portage.

On my return from Cumberland and Birch River, I went on with the completion of the dwelling-house I put up last fall.

On 24th June, Mr. Surveyor Green arrived to complete the survey of Indian lands. A portion of land was surveyed north-west of us, so that this house now stands between two boundaries of the Pas Reserve.

The Pas Indians (with some assistance from myself, in food) have nearly completed a road through the woods from the Eddy to here. This road will be very useful, as delays are sometimes caused by storms on the lakes both, in summer and in winter.

I have asked the Pas Indians also to break up new ground this summer, and have promised to ask that they may be supplied with wheat for all the old ground next