

all the houses fire-places are built. We got all our crops in in good season and they consisted principally of potatoes, turnips and barley.

During this time none of our Indians were off their reserves, but all hard at work. The reports in the Montana papers of depredations committed by our Indians across the line, were totally without foundation. The Indians could not have behaved themselves better. I was continually among them and had no complaints, the cry among them being continually for more tools.

The Piegan Indians had eight ploughs of their own going, drawn by their own horses. They had a considerable quantity of land under crop, as had also the Blackfeet, Bloods and Sarcees. The Stoneys only had a small acreage, as their country is no place for farming, being too close to the mountains and therefore subject to early frosts. The Indians will have to depend principally on cattle raising. They are doing well with the cattle given them by the Government, and I have encouraged them to break and milk their cows. The Stoneys are good workers, and have sawn and are sawing a good deal of lumber. They will be able to make a good deal at this if allowed to do so, as they have considerable timber on their reserve. I had a good number of hands on the supply farms, and, on the Fish Creek farm, we had 400 acres in crop, principally oats, barley and peas.

We did not put in many roots on these farms as it costs more to freight them to the reserves than they are worth. I am glad the Government has determined to dispose of these two supply farms, they being a source of great expense, and when the crops are raised they have to be freighted to the different reserves, which is very expensive. If all the men, teams and tools now on these farms were distributed among the different reserves, we could raise just as good crops and probably better than can be raised on the supply farms, as heretofore no crops of any account have been raised, partly owing to early frosts.

This year the crops on these farms have been good and ought to pay expenses, although the principal crop being barley—it will be hard to dispose of it, and our Indians do not know how to make use of it. I should recommend small hand-mills being sent to the reserves, where this grain could be ground.

During the summer, and while the Indians were all at work looking after their crops and fields, the Bloods and Piegans were continually annoyed by Crees from Cypress stealing their horses. War parties of Crees, nearly every night, made raids on the horses of these Indians, which they could not recover. The Crees were the first to commence this work, and the Bloods kept coming into me asking for redress. I had the greatest trouble to prevent their going out on war parties, and at one time, I was afraid that the whole camp of young men would go to war with the Crees, in which case the Blackfeet and Piegans would have joined them. Things at last got to a point when I saw, that in spite of all my efforts, if something was not done to check the horse stealing, the Bloods would start out themselves, and indeed one or two small parties did start and brought back stolen horses, while I recovered in one instance 18 horses belonging to a half breed near Cypress. I had no trouble to get back horses that I could find, the Indians giving them up and in some cases even bringing them in here to me.

One of the chiefs "White Calf," came to me one morning with a large number of Indians, and informed me that the previous night 40 horses had been stolen from the camp. He said that he had often come to me, but had not been able to get back any horses, and that they had done what I told them and had not gone to war, and now the Crees took them for children and stole their horses just as they pleased. He wanted to send out some young men to Cypress to take back their horses by force. I saw something had to be done to keep them quiet, so I wrote a letter to the Commissioner of Police at Cypress Hills and gave it to White Calf, telling him to go straight to Fort Walsh, and give the letter to Col. Irvine who would help him to recover his horses. They were pleased at this, and promised to go straight to the fort and do what the colonel told them. After they started I heard that instead of three or four men going, 90 had started, and they sent me word