

year. The balance of seed was raised on the Government Farms or purchased from the Indians for bacon or clothing.

Some 200 acres of old land is being summer fallowed on the various reserves, and some 200 acres of new land has been broken since seeding.

The provisions expended from 1st January to 31st July, 1882, were only 44,661 lbs. flour, 11,751 lbs. bacon, including what was sold for grain, thus making a decrease in the issue of 29,898 lbs. flour, 1,040 lbs. bacon for last season, and 33,403 lbs. flour, and 5,522 lbs. bacon in the two years I have had charge. The decrease in the issue of provisions is owing to the fact that the Indians last winter used flour from grain raised by themselves.

I have only asked for 450 sacks of flour for this fall's contract, last year's contract being 700, thus you see that the issue of rations has been steadily decreasing while the work has increased three fold in the past two years. The expenditure of provisions includes what was paid out for labor on the farms, which is no small sum, as all the buildings, fences, &c., were put up by the Indians, and the establishments at Duck Lake and Snake Plain are as good as any in the country.

I may state here that the Indians do all their own ploughing and harrowing and a good deal of the seeding. Okenasis sows with both hands and is very proud of it; he will not teach any of his men to sow, saying that if they knew as much as he did he could not control them. I am happy to be able to state that the Indians are far ahead of most of the Half-Breeds in farming, and in fact compare favorably with many of the best white farmers. They have capital fences, and are the only ones, with the exception of the Government Instructors, who roll their land. I had hard work to get them into their present state of efficiency, but now have no trouble with any of them, and feel sure that if I give an order it will be carried out to the best of their ability.

Attackacoop and Mistawasis last spring paid into my hands one half the purchase money on the threshing machine they got me to buy for them, and will have no difficulty in paying the balance this fall.

In September a severe hail storm passed over the Muskeg Lake Reserve, destroying nearly all the grain. Owing to continued fine weather the crops on the other reserves were harvested and stacked in good shape, but heavy rains set in after the grain was stacked, and it is not turning out quite so well as expected, both the sample and yield are however far ahead of last year. There has been great delay in threshing, owing to nearly all the machines having broken down, only three are in running order in the whole of Prince Albert settlement, which includes Duck Lake. Rabbits and rats are numerous this year, and altogether my Indians ought to pass a comfortable winter, with very little expense to the Government.

I have been greatly assisted in my work by the push, energy and good judgment displayed by the farming instructors Chaffey and Tomkins.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. M. RAE,

*Indian Agent.*

NORTHERN SUPERINTENDENCY, 3RD DIVISION,

SAULT STE. MARIE, 30th December, 1882.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,

Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward you my Report of the 3rd Northern Superintendency under my charge, as requested by your circular, No. 1266, dated 25th November, 1882. I have little difference to make in my Report from that of last year. The visit of the Governor-General to the Garden River and Batchewana Indians was the event of the year, and gave great satisfaction to the members of