

*Moose Mountain District, Pheasant Rump Band.*

This is a small band of Assinaboines, consisting of eighty-six souls. They had fifty-five acres in crop, but it was very backward on account of the long drought. The Indians have built their houses in the style of a small village of twelve houses and four stables, and they farm all around it. From the scarcity of building timber the houses are of a very poor character, and the band generally is not prosperous. They require clothing, and if they were liberally supplied with ammunition, they could materially improve their condition without much additional expense to the Department. In the evening the Indians gathered at the chief's house for a talk. Wah-kee-an-dotah, or Red Thunder, was the principal speaker, and he asked for the band additional two yoke of oxen with harness, some more cows, pigs and sheep, plough for each family, four harrows, milk pails, churns and milk pans. I am inclined to think the altitude of this reserve is too great to admit of much success in farming, but no doubt stock will do well, sheep particularly, if the Indians can be induced to destroy their dogs. The cattle consist of one bull, six cows, four oxen, four calves, two three year old steers, and five young cattle—twenty-two head in all. They have had but little help in the way of food from the Department this summer, only having received twenty-four sacks of flour since April, which included the supply during seeding time. Their cabins have no windows, although sunshine is cheap and wholesome. I would recommend that some sash and glass be sent to them, there being no timber in the neighborhood to make lumber for sash.

*Ocean Man's Band—Chief No-gah-sha, or Red Ears.*

The crops here were well put in, but suffering from the drought. Turnips were a failure, wheat very thin and potatoes only coming through the ground, although seeding was finished early. The band numbered eighty, and bitterly complained of starvation, attributing the thirteen deaths which occurred last year to this cause. They were miserably clad, some having breech-clout and blanket, and some without the blanket. They stated that their principal food was barley. They complained of their instructor, McArthur, saying that he had been buying their horses for less than their value, while they were starving. The agent informed me that the members of the band are very poor fishers and hunters, as they only killed three deer last winter, when some men of Pheasant Rump's band, single handed, killed forty each. He also stated that the band has, this spring, worked as hard as any band could, but required more provisions. They are saddled with a great number of old widows and illegitimate children from Fort Walsh, and the widows of several men who were shot three years ago when the trouble took place between them and the Gros Ventres. They have seven oxen, five cows, one bull, two yearlings and four calves, making nineteen head in all. The agent was about to send them another yoke of oxen. They were not able to work one yoke of their oxen, the bows being too small.

*White Bear Band.*

This band has settled far in the hills, and I am afraid the altitude is too high for successful agriculture. However, the potatoes looked well, but the grain was very backward. They number one hundred and five souls, and their crop this year consists of eight acres of barley, four of wheat, six of potatoes, two and one-half of corn and six of turnips, a total of twenty-six acres. Pa-pa-ness, head man, is their best farmer. His farm is well fenced, which is much to his credit, for, having no oxen until this spring, he carried the rails on his back. I counted ten dwellings and five stables on the reserve. They have only four oxen, two cows and a calf, and these are what remain of their treaty animals. The band only owns eight horses. The chief, with his old father, Ogah-mah, and the rest of the band, came to our camp for an interview. Like the last mentioned band, they were poorly clad, and deserving of more than compassion, which was all I had to give them. The chief said