

Last summer the Assiniboines and some Crees were persuaded to leave the south and go to Qu'Appelle after a good deal of difficulty. The Assiniboines were induced to take a reserve at the Indian Head. They at first appeared fully contented but towards payment time became unsettled and restless, they stated that they could not live on bacon, and had always been accustomed to live on fresh beef. In order that they should have no excuse in that respect, I ordered beef three times a week; this satisfied them for a time, but after the payments they returned everything they had received from the Government, in the way of tools, &c., and said they must go south. The chief, The-man-that-took-the-Coat, came to me with his men and said he would not leave, as his brother chief, Long-Lodge, had done, without telling me why he did not like to stop north; he said he was pleased with the way he had been treated, but his people did not like the place, that their friends all lived south, and that their old people were buried there, they begged for a reserve in the south. I informed them that the Government did not intend to give any reserve in the south, as if they did so, the American Indians would be continually crossing the border to steal horses, and there would be continual trouble, but they had made up their minds to go and they left for Wood Mountain, I have not heard whether they remained in that section or crossed to their friends south of the line. Long-Lodge, who had left previous to The-man-who-took-the-Coat, has joined his relations at Wolf Point, and I expect the others will follow him.

The Crees who came north to Qu'Appelle with the exception of "Pie-a-Pot" and about half of his followers, joined their chiefs and are now on their reserves, they have assisted their friends in the usual work on the reserves and are doing pretty well.

The arrival of these Indians from the south unsettled the Indians on the reserves and was the cause of a good deal of valuable time being wasted. "Pie-a-Pot" after having looked out a reserve at the Indian Head and expressed himself satisfied with it, made a number of demands to which I was unable to accede and finding he could not get what he wished, returned to the south. At this time reports of buffalo being plentiful near Wood Mountain were circulated, and this to some extent made these Indians more independent.

In Treaty No. 6, Mr. Agent Rae of the Carlton District, in his report of last year, stated: "Nearly all my Indians feel confident that they can soon support themselves without much assistance from the Government, they are giving in seed for next year to the farmers." On August the 4th of this year he writes: "My Indians may be said to have passed the turning point, and if the frost keeps off the return of the crops will astonish you, for everything really looks splendid, and as I said before is far in advance of last year, on Monday next, August 7th, some of the grain will be cut." September 11th: "I think the returns will be double that of last year, fall ploughing commenced about September 11th, the turnip and potato crop are very fine." October 27th: "Threshing commenced on most of the reserves, the yield of grain will be far greater than last year, potatoes and vegetables have been safely put by and the yield has been very good owing to the fair weather lately, a good deal of fall ploughing has been done and everything seems in pretty good shape for winter."

This is not only useful information as to the value of the beautiful Carlton District, but also shows that our Indians are working systematically, and I doubt if any other settlers can make a better showing.

From Battleford Mr. Reed reports most favorably of the present condition of the Indians in his District; he has had in his Superintendency Indians who, up to the time of his taking over the Agency, some two years ago, had been very obstructive, and it is very gratifying to find that he has them now perfectly under control, and by his firmness and just dealings has convinced them that if they will take advice from the Government and not listen to mischievous outsiders they will soon become self-supporting. This summer the arrival of a number of Indians from the south interfered to some extent with the regular work on the reserves, but for all that he writes me "I am pleased to report that more than what our requirements can possibly call for next spring in potatoes has been set aside, and I entertain no fears