

of the Blackfeet. "Crowfoot" arrived here on the 20th ult., with 1,064 followers, all in a most destitute condition.

A large proportion of his followers consisted of old men, women and children.

They were nearly all on foot. I allowed him to remain here until he had rested. He moved on to the crossing on the 1st inst.

At the Sarcee Reserve Dr. Brunskill was obliged to leave on the 4th July in consequence of sickness in his family, and has since written me, that he would not be able to go back to take charge. I have therefore been obliged to leave the Sarcees in charge of the assistant with the interpreter. Mr. Stewart, the assistant, has so far managed well.

With the Bloods Mr. McDougall has succeeded in keeping them quiet. His staff of assistants has been too small to manage so large a body of Indians as are assembled on this reserve. The want of tools has been an excuse for their not going to work.

There has also been a spirit of mischief exhibited, and a jealousy by those coming in the spring against the Indians already settled. Their fences are pulled down at night and their gardens robbed.

This, I believe, is done by the younger portion of them. After the payments are over I hope to be able to make a change.

Mr. Kettles reports the Piogans quiet and attentive to their crops, which he says promise well. They are constantly amongst them, hoeing and weeding; some are going on building. I have reported to you the action I took in regard to the Instructorship of the Stoneys.

Mr. Begg has reported to me his arrival at the reservation and his having taken charge. The difficulty of getting proper men, I may say the impossibility of it, is the principal cause of our difficulty in managing the Indians, and until we can secure men who know how to work and will remain with us and take an interest in their work, we shall find it up-hill.

The reduction in the rate of wages at this season of the year has also been the cause of a large share of our present difficulties. On the supply farms the crops look well and promise a good yield. Mr. Bruce's crop is rather thin, which I attribute to the possibility of the seed having been unsound from being frozen last harvest. He has had four ploughs at work for some time, and will begin his haying on the 8th instant. Potatoes have suffered slightly from recent frosts.

I visited the Fish Creek Farm on the 29th ult., and was pleased with the promise and appearance of the crops. Mr. McHugh is sadly in want of horse-power, and, in consequence, has not been able to get any ploughing done, which will tell against the farm next year. He had begun his haying, and I was obliged to authorize the purchase of a team horse to enable him to keep his mower working. He will not be able to handle the crop on his farm when ready to harvest without more power. Were twelve or sixteen good brood mares sent here for the use of those two farms, along with a good coaching stallion, they would do the work well, and would in a few years pay for the outlay.

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FORT WALSH, 14th May, 1881.

SIR,—I have the honor to state that I visited Maple Creek Farm on the 11th and 12th inst. I found about ninety acres of land broken, twenty-two of which was planted with wheat, which was then about four inches high. Some oats had been sown and a few thousand pounds of potatoes planted; the balance of seed will, I trust, be all in the ground in ten days time. Some of the Indians have ploughed and worked remarkably well, which only tends to prove that those who wish can learn as readily as the whites.

Little Child had been troublesome for some days previous to my going out, and had stopped his men from working, he complained of the quality of the flour, and not being allowed a ration of tea and tobacco for his working Indians. He also asked me to give him a deed of the reserve, saying he was alarmed that it would be taken