

*Piegan Reserve, P. T. Williams, Instructor.*

I remained several days upon this reserve, as I wished to examine thoroughly the method of rationing, particularly that of killing, receiving and issuing beef. I came to the conclusion that the system of taking stock of the beef and flour on hand after each day's rationing, must be insisted upon, in order to arrive at the exact quantity given out, and the entries in the books should be made accordingly. By carefully collecting the "offal," and weighing it into the ration house, a large saving will be made to the Department. Up to the time of my visit, the Indians were not being paid in cash for butchering, as are those upon the Blood and Blackfoot Reserves, consequently, the butchers endeavored to pay themselves with meat. However, by insisting upon the contractors paying the Indian butchers cash, the instructor can get control of the offal. The agent promised to see that this was carried out by the contractors. Upon this reserve, as well as on others, proper appliances should be erected for the butchering of the cattle, for by so doing money will be saved to the Department, as the hanging up of the carcasses, during the process of skinning, will allow the blood and water to drain off. I estimate that from fifteen to twenty pounds in each animal would be thus saved; and to encourage cleanliness in the performance of the work, a well should be dug, and a good pump put in. Lime is now used freely in the different ration houses. There were two hundred and nineteen registered ration tickets. Mr. Williams informed me, that from the time he took charge to the time of my visit (two months), he had taken up twenty-seven false tickets.

*Cattle Herd.*

I will make this the subject of a special report. This band is reported as having three hundred and ninety-nine horses. Three work oxen have been missing from the reserve since last autumn. Once before they were lost and found at work in a bull train. It is possible that such a thing may have occurred again.

*Farm Work.*

I cannot bear witness to much advancement in agriculture on this reserve during the past two years. It occasionally happens, as here, that when Indians attain a certain degree of advancement they cannot see the necessity for further and continued effort. They become indifferent, particularly when they are regularly rationed with beef and flour. The band is divided into four settlements, known as the upper, lower and centre camps, and Big Swan across the river. The lower camp is that portion of the bands under minor chiefs "Morning Plume" and "Running Wolf." Their principal crop was potatoes, of which they had twelve acres, they were growing on the side of a hill and were well hoed, but the field was very badly fenced. There were two acres of wheat and one and one-half acres of turnips, or a little more than fifteen acres. They have twenty-six houses and seven stables, but having been built four or five years ago, when the band first settled, they are in very bad repair.

In the centre camp is "Eagle Tail" the head chief. Their crop was five acres of wheat, four and one-half acres of potatoes and one and one-quarter acres of turnips. It was badly fenced, some places not being fenced at all. They have eleven houses very much out of repair.

Upper camp is Chief "Crow Eagle." Their crop was one acre of wheat, two acres of oats, twenty-two and one-half acres of potatoes, one acre of turnips and one half acre of carrots. This crop was not promising much. An Indian named "Tow-wi-pé" is the head farmer. A heavy rain on the 25th July, during my visit did great damage to the potato crop, washing the young plants in many cases out of the ground. A good deal of broken ground here has no crop in this year, and is over-run with wild sunflowers. The land is very badly fenced but being principally cropped with potatoes, it does not suffer from the cattle. The turnips were sowed broadcast and allowed to take their chance with the weeds; the potatoes had been well attended to, and but for the storm, had promised an excellent crop. There