

3 hay forks, 8 hay rakes, 7 garden rakes, and 1 pair of scales, besides a quantity of provisions for destitute Indians safely stored at the agency. Three of the ploughs are almost worthless, having been broken, the agent informs me, in transport in 1876, and a number of the other implements are somewhat damaged. It would appear that the agent should be instructed to endeavor to induce all the Indians under his supervision to devote themselves more earnestly to agricultural pursuits, and less to those of a nomadic nature, and that whenever he found any industrious Indian destitute of the necessary implements for the proper cultivation of his lands, that immediately the same he furnished him out of the supplies at the agency.

Little Forks.

I arrived at this reserve on the 10th of July, but found it abandoned owing to the ravages of small pox last spring, when eleven died of the disease. I proceeded about six miles further down Rainy River where the chief Keechekookai. (The-maker-of-the-day), and a number of his followers were encamped, and had planted eighty bushels of potatoes. They wanted their reserve to be exchanged for another here inasmuch, as they were afraid to return to their former homes. I informed them that their request could not possibly be entertained because they had a very superior reserve already; that although a great calamity had befallen them, the reserve was not the cause of it, and that they might safely go back after having secured their crops, as the houses in which the epidemic prevailed had been destroyed. The chief asked the great White Mother to have pity on them, and supply them with two other cows to replace those killed during the prevalence of small-pox to prevent his people from starving. He also wants nets, kettles, clothing, agricultural implements, a tool chest, and houses to be given them to replace those burnt by order of the health officer. Three of their horses starved to death last winter through neglect on account of the small-pox, so that altogether this band have only now, 2 houses, 2 stables, 1 plough, 1 harrow, 6 hoes, 1 spade, 10 axes and 3 scythes. The Indians here were all vaccinated by Dr. Kerr, but only one-half of them were affected by the operation. The chief being seriously indisposed from an injury received, requested that a physician be sent to perform a surgical operation upon him, as he had not suitable instruments to do it himself. In my interview with Mr. Pither afterwards, I referred to this critical case, and he cheerfully agreed to render all the assistance in his power to alleviate his sufferings. They are opposed to having their school re-opened, as their former teacher did not visit them during their afflictions. The number belonging to this band who received annuities in 1877 was seventy, whereas this year only sixty-two received payments, a decrease of eight in seven years.

Manito Rapids.

This most fertile reserve is held in common by Kitchekaikake (The Great Hawk), and Maskeekininic (The Medicine Man) who cultivate, together their extensive fields. The former band have 4 head of cattle, 3 horses, 8 dwelling houses, and the latter 4 head of cattle and 1 dwelling house. They both have a few agricultural implements, mostly purchased by themselves, mostly all those supplied them by the Department having been worn out. They have about 25 acres under excellent cultivation, having planted 127 bushels of potatoes and about 5 of corn in it this year. These are the only bands in Treaty No. 3 yet visited during this trip who prepare their gardens for sowing and planting by ploughing them. They piteously begged for assistance in repairing their broken plows, as they are unable to do so themselves. I consider that these deserving Indians should be encouraged by supplying them with the plough, harrow, and other articles of husbandry to which they are entitled by treaty. There are 40 children of different ages belonging to these bands living on the reserve. The strongest appeals were made for a school to be opened there without delay. A school-house 18 x 22 feet, made of flattened cedar logs was in course of erection, and they intended to have it finished last fall. They built another house beside it for the teacher. This is an evidence that knowledge