

working for a lumbering company of Duluth, and being several days without any food they were obliged to kill the ox to save themselves from starvation, and that they told him they were willing to pay all damages, but when and how I could not learn.

This band have about twenty acres clear, and might if properly directed and encouraged by giving them their cattle, &c., produce enough food to meet their requirements, but the majority of them wander about from place to place, dwelling in tents, and living principally by fishing and hunting. The chief asked for locks, hinges, windows, doors, &c., for their houses, but I informed him that none of those articles were promised him by Treaty, and that they must purchase them like their white brothers, themselves. The Agent visited this band also, and delivered seed corn and garden seeds to them, and showed them how to plant them. but so far as corn and potatoes are concerned, not a single band of Indians I ever visited but what understood as thoroughly as white men do, how to cultivate them, but wheat, barley and other cereals, as well as garden seeds, they almost invariably sow too thick. They labor to great disadvantage in clearing and preparing the soil for the seed. The most effective factor for removing the timber being fire, which they set out in a dry season for that purpose, and afterwards select the clearest spots and take out the smallest stumps, roots and standing trees with the grub hoe, leaving the largest ones untouched, so that the difficulties encountered in preparing a few acres for crops are immense, and no wonder that they are so averse to farming, and shrug their shoulders in disgust and despair in many instances upon being urged to cultivate the soil in this rude-primitive manner. I consider that instructions in agriculture to be of any permanent benefit to them, should embrace not only the cultivation of the soil, but also the removal of timber therefrom, on a more modern and improved system than that invariably adopted by them.

The Seine River band of Indians are making progress in farming. They planted forty-two bushels of potatoes this year. The chief, Rat McKay, says they don't know what to do with the surplus of potatoes raised on the reserve, unless they are allowed to dispose of them to lumbering companies and others who may require them. They had on the 30th ultimo, twenty-five bushels of potatoes on hand in their cellars, in pits in their field or scattered on the ground. He says they would raise a greater quantity, but unless they get liberty to sell they would only rot after all their labor. They lost two of the cows received from the Department; one of them died five days after they received her, and the other last spring from disease. The bull has not been delivered yet having been left at Couchiching on account, I am informed by Mr. Pither, of lameness, but will be delivered, he says, this summer. The oxen he says are very gentle, but he wants a logging chain as he cannot work them without one. They have two stables, three houses finished and three partially so. He is very glad that payments of annuities are to be made in future on their reserve. He says he is not responsible for the death of the cattle, because they were delivered in a wretched starving condition in winter, when they should have been delivered in summer by tug, but Mr. Pither says the cattle were in good condition when they left his place. The chief wants others in their place for the reasons above mentioned. He wants that portion of his reserve on Lac des Mille Lacs exchanged for another on the Seine River, a long distance below his present reserve on that river, where there is an excellent small patch of red pine which is wanted, he says, for building purposes on the reserve, on account of the ravages by fire which destroyed nearly all his timber when the Canadian Pacific Railway surveyors were running lines to Sturgeon Falls. He says the portion of the reserve he desires to surrender is worthless, being principally composed of rocks and muskegs, and that he only asked for it at Treaty time, because some of his people had then been living there, but that as they have all abandoned it now he wished it exchanged. This is decidedly the most progressive band within Mr. Intyre's Agency, and should be encouraged within reasonable bounds.

The payment of annuities, as well as the general management of this Agency, is very satisfactory, and the Department is to be congratulated that sixty bands of