

temporarily. No ploughing had yet been done on this reserve as they had only been moved there the previous fall. I visited the Crossing again and then went into Fort MacLeod to see about supplies and tools. I sent a messenger to Fort Benton to I. G. Baker & Co., informing them that flour was needed and to ship some in at once. I had, on two occasions, to purchase cattle from others than the contractors, as they failed to keep me supplied, and beef would have been run out on the Blackfoot and other reserves had I not done so. I had to pay high prices and notified the contractors before taking this step. Of course, the contractors were the losers of the amount over the contract price.

I made my headquarters at Fort Calgary, but spent a great portion of my time at the Crossing, and I was glad to see that a decided change for the better was taking place there. I was able to get a few axes and other tools that I distributed amongst the Indians, and it was astonishing to see with what a will they went to work. Many new houses were built at this time. I saw that it was necessary to make the Indians scatter on their reserve, as remaining together as they were doing was the cause of much trouble, and as they have a very fine reservation it would be a pity for it not to be taken up by them.

The trouble in moving them any distance from the Agency was their having to go that distance for their rations. Old Sim, chief of the Northern Blackfeet, having with other chiefs belonging to that branch, about 900 people, was anxious to move to a large valley about 14 miles above the Crossing, but had not done so, as he said he had been promised that a man should be sent up there and the rations for his people issued at that point. After considerable difficulty, I engaged two men to go up there and build a dwelling and ration house, and when this was finished, I moved Old Sim and his camp up there and made arrangements that cattle should be killed and issued, thereby keeping them all together away from the Crossing. This had the best effect, and these Indians at once went to work building, and have now several small villages between the two points. It also had the effect of breaking up the soldier band and taking away and scattering most of the discontented spirits among the tribe.

Shortly after my settling at Calgary, I received orders to take over the southern half of the Agency from Mr. Agent MacLeod, and I then made my headquarters at Fort MacLeod. I found the Piegan Indians doing well and having seed enough to plant their fields.

The Bloods were not so far advanced, their fences having all been used for fire-wood during the winter; and as they raised no crops to amount to anything they had no seed of any kind.

This tribe is the largest in the Agency, being over 3,400 Indians, and as they are so near in line they require a great deal of looking after.

The Instructor, Mr. McDougall was removed by order, and Mr. McCord placed in that position and he has done wonders for that reserve since he has been in charge.

I made arrangements for ploughing on all the reserves, by contract, and purchased seed potatoes and barley wherever I could procure them, and I found it a difficult matter to procure the amount I did. I had small fields ploughed at the Crossing and on the other reserves, letting a field belong to a certain number of bands.

The Piegans and Bloods did some ploughing with their own horses and a few of the Blackfeet did the same.

What with our own men and teams and the ploughing contracted for, we had a good deal of breaking on all the reserves in small fields. I have divided the Bloods into more camps, and quite a number of villages have started both up and down the river, and I have managed to get fields ploughed for all of them.

The Indians were most anxious to learn all over the Agency and planted in most cases all the potatoes and fenced all the fields.

A good supply of axes and augers had been received, of very good quality, and these were at once distributed on each reserve, the Indians making good use of them. Houses went up thick and fast at the Crossing, Blood and Sarcee Reserves, and really the houses built are most creditable, in many cases the logs are hewn and in nearly