

*Eagle Hills.*

I first visited the Stoneys. The bands newly arrived from the south under Bear's Head and Poorman; they were hard at work building houses; they had already ten completed. They were surprised as well as pleased to see me, remembering me as the one who had paid them their annuity the year before at Maple Creek, near Fort Walsh. These Indians are rather restless, having already heard that the Assiniboines, under "The Man who took the Coat," and "Long Lodge," had again returned to their old haunts at Cypress, from Qu'Appelle, along with Pie-a-pot. It would be past human ken, to, at this time, say how Indians will act upon the opening of spring, they are restless now; however, it is to be hoped they may be induced to remain and commence the cultivation of the soil. Should they do so, the Commissioner has consented that the land already broken on the home farm, at Farm No. 11, shall be turned over to them.

Mosquito Band have been settled two years upon their reserve; they have already made considerable advancement in building houses and farming. The chief, although an old man, is a good a worker, and as far as he can sets his Indians a good example. When I first met him here, two years ago, upon his return from the plains, his only covering was a buffalo robe (he was in mourning), but this time I found him properly clothed and his whole mind was given to the importance of the work in hand (digging potatoes.)

*Red Pheasant Band.*

These Indians have been settled four years, and being near to the headquarters at Battleford, have received a good deal of attention. Also, as Farm No. 11 was established near them, they have had the constant supervision of an instructor. They have profited by these favorable circumstances to a very great degree, and now, with a man to oversee them at seeding and harvest time, will get along very well, and perhaps in another year they will only require the periodical visits of the Agent. Many individual Indians of this band have become well off, and, although it is the same with Indians as in white communities, there will always be the poor and shiftless. However, I can say these Indians will be almost self-supporting in another year. Should there be erected in the neighborhood, a grist mill—and it may be well to consider if it would not be judicious upon the part of the Department to bonus a company or individual agreeing to establish one—taking as a consideration that Indian grain will receive a preference in grinding, and at a smaller toll than is usually taken and also the Department to have the privilege of naming the point where such a mill shall be built.

*School.*

There is a school established upon Red Pheasant's Reserve, but as it was Saturday when I was there, I did not see it in session.

*Indian Agency Office, Battleford.*

I took an inventory of the stores on hand and examined the quality and condition of the provisions. They were kept in excellent order by the storekeeper, Mr. Carney, and I observed that he was taking great care in the issue. Some old flour on hand had become lumpy, but that received this year was good.

I carefully examined the books. The system of checking the issues practiced between the clerk and the storekeeper is an excellent plan. In my opinion the issues of provisions have been made with care and judgment. All letters, copies, bills of lading, quadruplicates of vouchers, were properly filed and docketed; the receipts of goods as entered in the books agreeing with bills of lading. I found the following books in use in the office, all properly written up and posted: Register of letters received with synopsis of subject, also the action; Implement book, containing the issues to each band of Indians; Book containing list of all goods sent to farms; Daily issue