

taken care of for winter use. The Indians are very busy at present in slicing and drying pumpkins and squashes for the coming winter. Farming operations of all kinds have been very successful this season. Indians are more than repaid for their labor, and a great stimulus given them for future exertions. The success attending farming operations this year has demonstrated fully that these Indians can in a short time be made not only self-supporting but producers.

I am informed by credible authority that the rain-fall in this section is constantly increasing, and for the past 7 years there has enough rain fallen during the growing season to insure any kind of a crop. Three years ago there was a visitation of the grasshoppers, but none for the past two years. The success attending wheat-growing in the Red River Valley, scarcely 200 miles east of here, coupled with the success met with at Bismarck, 50 miles north of here, where oats are averaging 60 bushels to the acre, and wheat 25 bushels, clearly shows that this is a country perfectly adapted to the cereals, and I would respectfully suggest that these Indians be furnished with more farming implements, more draught animals, and cows for raising stock.

To encourage them in their enthusiasm for farming they must be shown the stern necessity, and have a complete understanding, that they must depend on tilling the soil for their livelihood; that the government will only lend a helping hand, and not furnish complete supplies forever. As long as the system of issuing weekly rations is in vogue the Indians will farm only for their luxuries and notions, depending on their rations for main support. This policy will be kindness in the end, and in my opinion will soon solve the Indian-support question.

Wheat will not only grow here, but produce bountifully, and with a run of stone attached to the engine we have now, all the flour needed by the Indians could be manufactured here.

There are 6 mowing-machines bought and owned by the Indians, who run those machines to the best advantage. Also 18 wagons of different kind and make are their individual property. The department issued this year 6 improved Wood's mowing machines, 34 Moline wagons with 34 sets of double harness, 150 scythes, 42 hay and 115 iron garden-rakes, and other articles too numerous to mention here.

LIVE STOCK

A careful census of live stock was taken in June last, when all the Indian cattle were branded, and I found 651 head of cattle and 643 ponies.

The Indians made plenty of hay to winter their stock, and I have no doubt, as they take pride in having nice cattle, that they will take the best care of them. What is needed are good brood mares and medium-sized American stallions in order to improve the stock of horses, so that the Indians can raise their own teams heavy enough to pull their plows.

BEEF CATTLE

In order to make the Indians self-supporting with beef at this agency, I would respectfully submit the following points for consideration: