

to plant a small field or garden-patch, ranging from one quarter of an acre to five acres, each in extent, aggregating about 1,250 acres planted by Indians, and which, with an agency field of 90 acres of oats and 50 acres of miscellaneous crops at the Industrial Farm School, will approximate 1,400 acres cultivated and in crops this year.

The first part of the season was cold and backward, but there being an abundance of rain throughout the summer, with very favorable weather after the 1st of July, all crops where properly cultivated, promise an excellent yield. A large portion of the crops not having yet been harvested, only approximate figures are therefore given in the statistical report herewith transmitted, and notwithstanding that some of the fields have been sadly neglected by their owners the present crop has been such as greatly encouraged the Indians in general, but more particularly the late hostiles, who planted a field of about 200 acres, for which labor they feel well repaid, and it being their first attempt at planting it will stimulate them to greater efforts in coming years. Four mixed-bloods and eleven Indians sowed oats this year, which are a profitable crop, and having yielded well will be an incentive to cultivate them more generally in future. They begin to realize the advantage of having oats to feed their working animals, besides finding a ready sale here with good prices for all surplus oats raised.

Owing to there being no government mill at this agency, and no accessible means of having their wheat converted into flour, there was only a very small quantity of wheat sown this year; but what was sown matured well and the yield was very satisfactory. About 50 families are now engaged in plowing fields, preparatory to sowing wheat next spring, and they will consequently seed about 200 acres, in fields ranging from two to five acres each. Wheat can be successfully raised here by the Indians, but in order to make the growing of wheat profitable a grist-mill is necessary, so that it can be ground into flour for the producers. To the same power that runs the grist-mill a saw could be attached, which would be very useful, and, in fact, is very essential to the successful management of this agency as a large quantity of much needed building material could then be obtained from the large cottonwood trees that abound on the reservation, but which timber, being large and unwieldy cannot be utilized by any other means than by sawing.

There are twenty-eight mowing machines in use among the Indians of this agency, but some of them are badly worn and almost useless. They have been kept running, however, as steadily as possible since the middle of July, and a considerable quantity of hay has been secured. The season having been very favorable for haying, the crop is well cured, and a large portion of what was cut has already been hauled and stacked by the farming Indians on their respective claims. We are therefore in a fair way of having an ample supply secured to carry all stock belonging to the agency safely through the coming winter.

The industrial farm school is located 15 miles south from the agency, and is beautifully situated on a level plateau adjacent to a large body of excellent cottonwood timber, and occupies a commanding view of the Missouri River for several miles in either direction. This school is under contract with Very Rev. J. B. A. Brouillet, director of Catholic Indian Missions, and is under the immediate charge of Rev. C. M. Eomer, O. S. B., who, with five brothers of the same order, in the respective positions of teacher, farmer, carpenter, tailor, and dairyman, fill the requirements of the contract very satisfactorily. There are, in addition to the above instructors, four Benedictine sisters, who do the cooking and laundry work of the school, one of whom also assists in teaching. This school has been carried on throughout the year, with an average attendance for the twelve months of 27 pupils, and a farm of 50 acres has been cultivated in connection with it, the work of which was done exclusively by the teachers and pupils of the school in a very commendable manner, being such as to elicit the admiration of all who saw it, both whites and Indians. We estimate the products of the school-farm as follows, viz: Corn, 100 bushels; oats, 800 bushels; wheat 60 bushels; beans 20 bushels; carrots, 20 bushels; beets, 40 bushels; onions, 25 bushels; potatoes; 400 bushels; peas 10 bushels; cabbage 200 heads; pumpkins, squash, and melons, 500; and hay, cut hauled, and stacked, 25 tons.

At the girls' school there was an average attendance for the twelve months of 23 boarding scholars, whose progress has been entirely satisfactory, and the boys' boarding-school, located at the agency, was conducted for ten months of the year, a total average attendance of 70 scholars for the three schools, and the whole number that attended school during the year was 120.

The boy's school at the agency has been discontinued, the boys having been placed at the industrial farm school, and the old building formerly occupied by them has been enlarged and somewhat improved and is now used as a girls' boarding-school where there are 35 girls domiciled. The building is very poor and not at all suitable for such a school, but there being (apart from this building) only the industrial farm school buildings,