

The Indians included in this agency are Assinaboines, Yanktonais, and Gros Ventres. None of the latter, I learn, have ever come to this agency from Belknap to receive any supplies, but the two former have regularly received their supplies and annuity-goods, the first at Wolf Point and the second at Fort Peck. Their number, as near as I have been able to ascertain since I came, is 1,719 Assinaboines, 4,395 Yanktonais, and 600 Gros Ventres-- in all, 6,714 Indians.

INDIAN RESERVATION.

This Indian reservation generally is a higher rolling, and more or less broken country, extending north of the Missouri River to the British line, and from Fort Buford to Fort Benton, covered with the nutritious bunch grass of this region, where buffalo have roamed for ages, and still live and are found in considerable numbers. Within this limit is found some very valuable land for farming purposes. There exists a plateau or bench on the north side of the Missouri River, from the mouth of Milk River to below Poplar River, a distance of perhaps 75 miles. This plateau varies in width from 1 to 3 miles, will average nearly 2 miles, and is not interrupted in this extent by any unproductive land, but is all above the first bottom (which at times overflows) some 10 or 12 feet, placing it above all possible danger of overflow by the river. It is intersected by Milk River, Porcupine, and Wolf Creeks, and Poplar River at varying distances apart of 10 or 20 miles. At Wolf Point this farm land spreads out to the greatest width and we here find a body of really magnificent land, where thousands of acres of beautiful land can be seen at a glance, and here all the farming of the agency has been done.

FARM LAND AND FARMING

The whole extent of this plateau is as good farm-land as can be found above Yankton and, if the seasons continue as favorable as this and the last were, crops can be grown and matured as well here as in Illinois.

An effort at farming has been made at Wolf Point, and so far with very satisfactory results. This season rains have been frequent, and crops are growing and maturing in a very satisfactory manner. The opinion has prevailed that crops could not only be grown in this region by the help of irrigation; but the experience of this and the past season has proven that rains can be depended on for growing any crops common to the Mississippi Valley--spring-wheat and oats; corn may, perhaps, be cut short by early frost, but potatoes here find the soil and circumstances to produce them in the highest perfection; and if we had had the seed to plant even the 65 or 70 acres broken up here this season, we could have supplied all our Indians with potatoes for the year, and still have a surplus. The only drawback at Wolf Point, or any other location on the reservation, excepting only at Poplar River, is a supply of good running water for domestic use.