
PART II.

NORTH - WEST MOUNTED POLICE FORCE

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

1880.



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The Honorable
The Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa.

FORT WALSH, CYPRESS HILLS, N.W.T., 29th December, 1880.

SIR,—On the 30th October last I received your telegram appointing me Commissioner of the North-West Mounted Police, from the first day of November last, and subsequently your letter enclosing the Order in Council relating to my appointment, dated the 13th day of October, 1880.

As during the past winter I was on leave of absence, and afterwards on recruiting service in the Eastern Provinces, I have had little opportunity of late of judging for myself as the state of the force in the various portions of the northern districts, or of the work performed. The reports of the superintendents in charge will, I trust, furnish this information.

During my absence on leave I utilized my time by visiting Ireland, in order that I might inquire most fully into the practical working of the Royal Irish Constabulary, with a view of making myself thoroughly conversant on matters relating to its organization and discipline, in order that I might be in a position to judge how far the experience gained by this old, efficient, and time-honored corps might prove of service to the force now under my command.

From the letter of introduction you did me the honor of furnishing me with, I was most courteously received at the Castle, Dublin, the headquarters of the Royal Irish Constabulary. Here I met Colonel Hillier, C.B., the Inspector-General of that corps. To this officer and many others serving under his command, I am greatly indebted for the vast amount of practical information gained.

At Colonel Hillier's suggestion I first went to the depot at Dublin, following step by step the course through which the gentlemen cadets and recruits go, from the hour of their entry for instruction up to the time they are considered fit for duty in a county.

As soon as I had satisfied myself as regards the working of the Depot, I visited the counties, the real field of labor of the Royal Irish Constabulary, inquiring into the office and out-door work performed.

At the Depot, and different points visited, the books—in fact everything—was thrown open to my inspection.

Previous to my visit to the Royal Irish Constabulary, I remained for a month at Aldershot, England. While there, I was offered every facility by Deputy Commissary-General M. B. Irvine, C.B., C.M.G., commanding the Commissariat and Transport Corps, to inquire into the organization and management of that corps.

I sailed from Liverpool on the 20th March, and arrived in Ottawa on the 10th April. Soon after this, I commenced the work of recruiting, meeting the recruits, and having medical examinations held at the various appointed places, which were: Halifax, Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, and London.

Recruiting Service.

I sailed from Sarnia on the 28th of May with 48 recruits, and proceeded to Bismarck, U.S., *via* Thunder Bay and Duluth, reaching Bismarck on the 5th of June. From Bismarck I took the steamer *Rosebud* up the Missouri River to Benton, where I arrived on the 19th June. From Benton I proceeded across the plains to Fort Walsh.

Two further batches of recruits also reached Fort Walsh *via* the same route, later in the season. The first, 13 in number, under Sergeant Ryan, a non-commissioned officer, who had been in the Eastern Provinces on leave, reaching Fort Walsh on the 21st August. The second batch, 39 in number, under Mr. Fortescue, of the Department of the Interior, arrived at Fort Walsh on the 22nd September.

The following return shows the number of men discharged during the year 1880, also the number of re-engaged men and recruits engaged :

FROM WHAT CAUSE.	No.	REMARKS.
Expiration of term of service.....	97	
Order in Council, 5th April, 1880.....	39	
Invalided, unfit for service.....	6	
Drowned.....	1	Constable C. S. Hooley, crossing Belly River.
Died.....	1	Constable Thos. Hall, at Fort MacLeod.
Deserters.....	10	8 of these deserters are in jail at Fort Walsh.
Dismissed.....	3	2 undergoing imprisonment at Fort Walsh.
Total discharged.....	157	
Time expired men.....	22	Re-engaged.
Recruits engaged.....	101	Southern Divisions.
do do.....	4	Northern Divisions.
	127	Total re-engaged and recruited.

There are seventy-eight men serving in the force, whose term of service will expire during the year 1881; with few exceptions, their term of service will expire during the month of June.

Class of Recruits desirable.

On the subject of recruits, I might here mention that I most earnestly trust that the greatest care be shewn in future selection of men for service in the North-West Mounted Police.

I consider that the best class of men to recruit from are farmers, or young men from rural districts, accustomed to perform hard manual labor, who understand the care and treatment of horses. Such men pick up the knowledge required for prairie work much more readily and are more efficient than those recruited from towns and cities. Young Canadian farmers are, in my opinion, the material for the best soldiers in the world. They may be classed as "handy men," excellent axemen; in fact, can turn their hands to anything. As a matter of course, a limited number of artizans and mechanics are required to fill the positions of carpenters, shoeing smiths, shoemakers, tailors, etc.

It is needless to point out that as far as possible, searching enquiry should be made as to the character of men enlisted, always bearing in mind that men addicted to drink are of the most objectionable class.

It is a serious mistake to imagine, that because this is a prohibitory country, that a man, although unsteady in habits, would make a good policeman, on the presumption that he will be unable to get drink; such a man can never have the confidence of his officers, and should occasion offer, would, in all probability, bring disgrace on the corps.

Clause 6 of the Police Act reads:—"No officer or constable shall be appointed to the Police Force unless he be of sound constitution, able to ride, active and able bodied, of good character, and between the ages of eighteen and forty years; nor unless he be able to read and write either the English or French languages."

I trust the spirit of this clause will invariably be acted on. In the past, this has not always been done. A man who cannot ride is useless for service in the Police; worse than useless, in fact, a mere incumbrance.

Of course instruction in equitation is carried on to as great an extent as possible. But it must be remembered that a man who has reached, say thirty or thirty-five years of age, and who has never been on a horse, has but little chance of becoming a good rider, even presuming that for one-fifth of his service he is under instruction—a period that, in a small hard working force like this, it is impossible to give.

Medical Examination of Recruits.

The medical examination cannot be too carefully carried out. Being forced to invalid men who have been sent up to this country is a great expense to the Government, more so than is apparent to a casual observer. In a civilized country, a man unfit for service can be invalided without the slightest delay. You are, however, aware that here it is only during the summer season that invalids can be sent back to the Eastern Provinces. During the time they remain here such invalids have to be cared for in hospitals; thus, in each case, do we not only lose the services of one man for duty, but our strength is still further weakened by being forced to detail other men to perform hospital attendance.

Recruiting Service.

The recruiting should, I think, be conducted by an officer who has had experience in the class of men required, and in whom confidence, as regards his ability of judging character, might safely be placed.

The following is a return showing the distribution of the officers and men from the latest returns:—

Division Letter.	Name of Station.	Staff Officers.	Superintendents.	Inspectors.	Staff Sergeants.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Constables.	Totals.	Strength of Divisions.
A	Fort Walsh.....		1	2		2	3	39	47	47
B	Qu'Appelle.....		1	1	2	4	4	27	39	
B	Shoal Lake.....						1	3	4	
B	Swan River.....			1				2	3	46
C	Fort MacLeod.....	1	1	4	2	4	3	48	63	
C	Fort Calgary.....				1			3	4	67
D	Battleford.....	1	1	1	1	2	2	18	26	
D	Fort Saskatchewan.....			1	1	1		7	10	
D	Prince Albert.....					1		7	8	44
E	Fort Walsh.....		1	2		2	2	33	40	40
F	Wood Mountain.....		1	1		2	2	24	30	
F	Fort Walsh.....	2			6	2	1	14	25	55
	Totals.....	4	6	13	13	20	18	225	299	299

 RECAPITULATION.

Staff Officers.....	4
Superintendents.....	6
Inspectors.....	13
Staff Sergeants.....	13
Sergeants.....	20
Corporals.....	18
Constables.....	225
Total Strength.....	299

NOTE.—This return does not include Inspector P. R. Neale, Supply Officer.

Strength of the Force.

I do not consider that the present strength of the force is strong enough to meet the requirements that the country demands of it. I previously brought this to the notice of the Government while in temporary command as Assistant Commissioner.

I recommend that the strength of the force be increased by two hundred men.

Since the disappearance of buffalo the Indian situation has assumed quite a different aspect.

As long as the buffalo lasted the Indian was self-supporting, independent and contented. Now, however, he is in a very different position, his only means of support is virtually gone, and he has to depend on the Government for assistance, being forced, in so doing, to remain about the Police Posts, Indian Agencies or other settlements.

True, a very limited number of buffalo are still to be found south of the International Boundary Line, and this has been the means of keeping large numbers of Indians, for a great portion of their time, at all events, out of the North-West Territory.

This cannot continue much longer, the Indians that do hunt for a living only manage to eke out a most miserable existence. Ere long they will be unable even to do this, and will then return to this country. Thus the Indian population will, to all intents and purposes, be increased. This population, too, will, irrespective of the aid received from Government, be a starving one, a dangerous class requiring power, as well as care, in handling.

Another patent reason that has further impressed me with the conviction that an increase of the Force is necessary, is, the advancement of civilization now being made.

Our satisfactory relations with the Indians in the past is most certainly a matter of the utmost congratulation, and will, I trust, be the means of furthering the chances of lasting and permanent peace. Nevertheless, it must not be lost sight of, that all the intricacies and dangers of the Indian question are not over.

The experience of our neighbors to the south of the international boundary line cannot be without its lesson to us. In their case the military had no trouble with the Indians until settlers appeared on the scene.

These settlers, unaccustomed to the Indian manner and habits, do not make due allowances and exhibit that tact and patience necessary to successfully deal with Indians, and which is shewed them by an organized force kept under control.

As an instance of this during the past summer, a settler within a few yards of Fort Walsh became annoyed at a Cree Indian he found leaning on his garden fence, and struck the Indian in the face with his fist. This so enraged the Indians of the tribe the assaulted man belonged to, that notwithstanding the fact that a fine was inflicted on the settler, they proceeded in a body to his garden, which they commenced at once to destroy, and, but for the timely arrival of the Police, I am of opinion that much more serious consequences would have followed. Had this happened, it is hard to tell where it would have ended.

The Force now in Battleford and Saskatchewan District (44) is altogether too small.

This District embraces a vast section of country, which in some places is becoming settled; and is inhabited by say 7,000 Indians of different tribes, many of whom have at various times given much trouble, and been the cause of great anxiety.

FORCE AT WOOD MOUNTAIN.

The Force at Wood Mountain is also inadequate.

Wood Mountain is in proximity to Indian agencies on the other side of the line. From these agencies Indians come ostensibly to hunt, but really on the look out for horses to steal, and are only too ready to make our country along the frontier the base for their operations.

This horse stealing, particularly among different tribes, is not unlikely to lead to still further and more serious trouble.

The American Treaty Indians, located on reservations in the vicinity of the boundary line, were in the habit of hunting buffalo on our side of the line in days when these animals made their way north.

These Indians have in this way become familiarized with our country, and the strength of the force we keep at different points.

At Wood Mountain they are aware that in the past the force stationed there has been small.

I have already reported to you the circumstances connected with the killing of a half-breed named Tempt Couvert, presumably by Indians from the United States, some fifty or sixty miles from Wood Mountain; also the killing of Indians at Roche Percee.

There is a considerable half-breed population at Wood Mountain.

The country is suitable for settlement.

Wood Mountain Post Unsuitable.

The present fort in which the force at Wood Mountain is stationed is altogether unsuited to the purpose to which it is being put, nor do I consider the location a good one.

A new post might advantageously be erected near a point known as the "Willow Bunch," about thirty-five miles east of the present post.

This post would require to be large enough to receive from fifty-five to sixty men and horses.

FORT WALSH.

I understand it is the intention of the Government to move the headquarters of the force from Fort Walsh.

Such a change is beyond a doubt most advisable.

I am not, however, of opinion that the neighborhood of the Cypress Hills can be entirely abandoned as a police post, unless it has been decided that the Indian Reservations are also to be moved.

From what I learn the Indian Farm operations at "Maple Creek," some thirty miles north-east from Fort Walsh, have been successful.

If this farm is to be maintained a force of police will be necessary in the vicinity.

Near this Indian farm at "Maple Creek" is a suitable point for the erection of a police post.

There is good timber to be had for building and other purposes, and crops put in would not suffer from summer frosts.

About "the bottom," where Fort Walsh is situated, farming operations have invariably proved a total failure, and a similar state of affairs can, I think, always be anticipated.

Grain put in never comes to maturity, owing to the prevalence of summer frosts; even the root crops have not been successful.

Hay is not procurable within a reasonable distance.

If I mistake not, the height of Fort Walsh above the sea level is some 3,400 feet.

Another reason for keeping a portion of the force within accessible distance of Cypress Hills. The wood to be found here must always prove a great attraction to travelling Indians, who will from time to time be passing through this section of the country, more particularly as long as even a remnant of former herds of buffalo are to be found on the Missouri and Milk Rivers in the United States.

Such Indians are likely, without the presence of the police, to make the Cypress Hills the scene of their battle grounds, as they have done in former years.

Should the Government consider it at present inadvisable to sanction my recommendation as regards the increase of the force by 200 men, I trust, notwithstanding, that the matter may not be altogether unacted on. Even an increase of 100 men would prove of an inestimable benefit. Were either of these increases made I would not recommend that the number of officers be added to. The number now in the force would be sufficient to meet the requirements of the service.

By careful and economical management on all points, the question of extra expense would not be of a serious nature. On the other hand, on the "stitch in time" principle, it might prove to the country a saving of many thousands of dollars.

Selection of Future Headquarters of Force.

I am perfectly well aware of the many important considerations that require to be most carefully weighed, before a point for the headquarters of the force can be finally settled upon.

It is a matter that cannot be looked at merely from a military point of view.

The future construction of public works throughout the North-West Territories, the rapid immigration that may safely be anticipated, and the settlement that will necessarily accompany it, must, I presume, also prove important factors as regards the permanent establishment of police headquarters. It would then be a most greivous mistake to arrive at any hastily formed conclusion which might, and the chances are would, be a source of never ending regret. However, at whatever decision the Government may hereafter arrive at, in the selection of a suitable point, I venture to recommend that the following be not lost sight of:—

1st. That it is essential the headquarters be in a section of country likely to prove successful from an agricultural point of view.

2nd. That there be a plentiful supply of building timber, fire-wood and good water.

3rd. That the point selected be a central one, where information from other portions of the North-West Territory can be readily imparted to the commanding officer. Where reinforcements could at short notice be forwarded to other posts. Where the various Indian tribes could best be controlled from; and lastly, where the presence of the police would further the advancement of civilization, and at the same time aid materially the Indian Department in the successful adoption and carrying out of the policy of the Government.

On Force Being Divided into Districts.

I recommend that the Territory be divided into districts, a superintendent placed in charge of each, with a suitable number of officers and men under him, in accordance with the amount of police work to be performed.

Each superintendent being responsible to the Commissioner for the discipline, peace and order of his district, also for all district stores, etc.

Headquarters to be Depot of Instruction.

I propose that for the future the headquarters of the force be a depot of instruction, at which place all officers and men joining the force will be sent, where they will remain until thoroughly drilled and instructed in the various police duties.

To carry out this plan successfully, it is indispensable that a competent staff of instructors be at my disposal.

A portion of such a staff I can obtain by selection from officers and non-commissioned officers now serving in the force. In addition to this, however, I recommend that the services of three perfectly qualified non-commissioned officers be obtained from an Imperial Cavalry Regiment. I am satisfied that the inducements we could hold out would be the means of obtaining the best class of non-commissioned officers to be had in England. I would not recommend that non-commissioned officers of more than five years service be applied for. Old men, who have already spent the best days of their life in the British service, would be quite unfit for the work that in this country they would be called upon to perform, nor would they be likely to show that energy and pride in their corps which is desirable that, by example, they should inculcate into others.

Instructors of the class I have described, in addition to the knowledge they would impart to others, would serve as models for recruits, as regards soldierlike conduct and general bearing. The importance of the benefits the force would thus derive cannot, in my opinion, be overrated.

The police force is principally composed of as fine a body of young men as could be found in any organization in the world. Many of whom are the making of excellent non-commissioned officers. It is with this fact in view, that I make the above recommendation, in order that the good material at our command may be made the most of, properly developed, if I may use such an expression.

Again, we have many non-commissioned officers, who though well informed as regards their own duties, have not the "naek" of imparting such knowledge to others. It does not necessarily follow that because a man is a good drill himself, that he is also a good instructor.

Pay of Force might be increased by length of service and good conduct.

I would recommend that the pay of non-commissioned officers and men be increased by length of service, in cases where such service has been in all respects satisfactory. This would virtually take the place of good conduct pay in the British service, and would, I have every reason to believe, prove a strong incentive towards inducing men to conduct themselves properly during their term of service, which under existing regulations is of considerable length, five years; more particularly may this be expected now that free grants of land are no longer given in recognition of good service. The line to be drawn in a force like this, between well and badly-conducted men cannot be too plainly marked and felt by the men themselves. I do not consider it necessary to here enter into this matter in further detail.

Application of Pecuniary Penalties, Formation of Recreation Rooms, &c.

Clause 15 of the Police Act, under the head of "Application of pecuniary penalties" reads:—

"All pecuniary penalties so imposed shall form a fund to be managed by the Commissioner, with the approval of the Minister charged with the control and management of the force, and applicable to the payment of rewards for good conduct or meritorious services, to the establishment of libraries and recreation rooms, and such other objects as the Minister may approve, for the benefit of members of the force."

The introduction of this clause in the Act is unquestionably judicious. In the cases of men performing exceptionally good or meritorious services, I would recommend that the superintendent, or other officer commanding their posts, at once bring their names to the favorable notice of the Commissioner, with a view of such men being specially rewarded out of the money accruing from pecuniary penalties inflicted. It might also be advisable to publish annually the names of men so rewarded, together with the nature of the good service they have performed. Of course great care must be exercised in judging between ordinary duty and "meritorious service."

As to the establishment of libraries and recreation rooms. In the British service, where, in most cases, the men are in the midst of comforts and amusements that civilization affords, it is, nevertheless, deemed most advisable that regimental libraries and recreation rooms be established. The object is:—

“To encourage the soldiers to employ their leisure hours in a manner that shall combine amusement with the attainment of useful knowledge, and teach them the value of sober, regular and moral habits.”

This, I consider, applies even much more strongly to the North-West Mounted Police, whose service is performed in a country where the surroundings are so totally different from those to which they have been accustomed, and where they are deprived of such pleasure and recreation as in the older Provinces are always attainable. I make these remarks merely to point out a want that in the past we have suffered from.

From departmental communications I am lately in receipt of, I feel satisfied it is your earnest desire that the wants of the force, as regards libraries and recreation rooms, be supplied effectively, and with the least possible delay.

Arms.

There is now in use in the force the Snider carbine and the Winchester rifle. On the organization of the force, the Snider carbine was the only rifle issued; since then, however, one hundred Winchester rifles, improved pattern, have been purchased, with which “A” and “F” divisions are now armed.

The Snider carbine has stood, so far as durability goes, the rough work which it has been put to during the last seven years very well. In this length of service it is not to be wondered at that many have become damaged, and some unserviceable. The Snider carbine is now considered in many respects an obsolete military arm, and is somewhat unsuited to the wants of a force in this country, where a large portion of the Indian population is armed with an accurate shooting weapon. Still, however, bearing in mind the expense that a change of arms would necessitate, I think the Snider carbine may be utilized by us for some further time, at all events. The amount of Snider ammunition on hand is large.

The Winchester rifle, which is a repeating one, and capable of receiving eight cartridges in the magazine, has many good points, and is a favorite arm with the western prairie men. I do not, however, consider it a good military weapon. The system of rifling is good, but the rifle is altogether too weak in construction to meet the rough handling that at times it is impossible to prevent its receiving. As an example of its weakness: Some time ago a man on sentry at night slipped and fell; in doing so the barrel of his rifle was broken at the joint where it is secured into the breech apparatus. Other similar instances have occurred. The back sight on the Winchester rifle is badly attached to the barrel. The sight slides readily from one side to the other, which of course interferes with accurate shooting. The rifles of this pattern that we now have in our possession, I propose arming the force along the frontier with. By so doing all these rifles will remain in one district, and the ammunition in the various stores will be of the same description.

In making the above remarks about the Winchester rifle it must not be fancied that I object to it as a military arm because it is a repeating one. On the contrary, I do not for a moment lose sight of the fact that it may now be accepted as a foregone conclusion that ere long repeating rifles will take the place of those at present in more general use throughout the armies of the world. But I am unaware, so far, of a really good military weapon on the repeating principle having been invented. This want—for such it is—however, will doubtless soon be overcome, let us hope before our Snider carbines become unserviceable.

The revolver with which the force is armed is of the “Adams” pattern. This revolver is not such as I should recommend were a new purchase being made; they can, however, be made to answer all practicable purposes.

The question of further arming the North-West Mounted Police with swords is one to which I have given considerable attention.

There are times when a sword would prove an encumbrance to a Mounted Policeman; times, therefore, when it would be undesirable. It is, of course, requisite that in the question of arms, the number and weight carried by each man should be reduced to a minimum consistent with efficiency.

In making ordinary prairie trips where no serious danger of attack is to be anticipated, I should be sorry to see our men's endurance further taxed by their being forced to add a sword to the arms they already carry.

These are my objections to the constant use of swords in the force. There is however, another side of the question to be looked at. In case of our men being called upon to act either on the offensive or defensive, it may be accepted that they will invariably be largely outnumbered. This being the case it is most essential that each man should be as fully armed as possible. The sword, in addition to his rifle and revolver, might be invaluable in instances that are commonly known, and not inexpressively termed "tight places."

If I mistake not, the late General Custer, U.S.A., objected to the sword being employed in Indian warfare, on account of the noise made in carrying it. I presume General Custer, in condemning the sword, must have meant his remarks to apply to one carried in a steel scabbard such as the British cavalry now use.

Similar and other objections have been advanced by officers of much experience in England. Some thirty years ago, General Sir Charles Napier, while on this subject, wrote:—

"The cavalry steel scabbard is noisy, which is *bad*; heavy, which is *worse*, and destroys the weapon's sharp edge, which is *worst*."

Taking all things into consideration, I would recommend that the police force be issued with swords, all ranks being thoroughly drilled and instructed in their use. The swords to remain in store except in cases of emergency (or for drill purposes) where their actual use is to be expected.

The best description of scabbard would, I think, be one made of wool covered with leather, bound and shod with steel; such scabbards are used by the native cavalry in India, and are considered by many professional authorities as by far the best and most serviceable in the world.

It will be remembered that the 7th United States Cavalry, who fought under the late General Custer, at the battle of the "Big Horn" (known as the Custer Massacre), were not armed with swords. From various accounts of this fight given me by the Sioux Indians who took part in it, I am led to believe that had this arm been in use the results would not, in all probability, have been so terribly disastrous.

Artillery Branch.

The artillery armament of the force consists of four 7-pr. mountain guns (bronze), at Fort Walsh. Two 9-pr. M.L.R. guns, and two small mortars, at Fort Macleod.

Clothing and Kit.

I have lately forwarded to the Department the proceedings of a Board of Officers assembled for the purpose of furnishing a full report on the quality and make of the clothing and kit supplied to the force.

I have already informed you that I fully concur with the opinion given by this Board; I need not, therefore, again deal with the matter in detail. It will suffice for me here to remark that the various articles of clothing and kit should be of the best quality procurable.

I also think that in the matter of kit, some reconsideration is necessary. This can doubtless be satisfactorily arranged hereafter.

The supply of clothing at each post should be in excess of the actual wants, in order that a fair latitude be allowed to replace articles lost or destroyed, which the men could obtain on repayment. It is important, too, that the arrangements for

the transport of clothing be such as would insure the clothing reaching its destination early in the season, in order that the men receive everything they are entitled to in one issue. Issuing one article months after another, is unfair to the men, as it does not allow them to make their clothing last as it should, nor can their general appearance be as good as otherwise would be expected.

Saddlery.

The question of the most desirable saddle for the force forms a subject of much importance. The "Californian saddle" appears to be preferred by the majority of the men in the southern divisions.

As the old "universal saddles" issued to the force on its organization are fast becoming unserviceable, it will be necessary to purchase new ones. I have myself ridden thousands of miles in the Californian and English saddles.

Taking all things into consideration, I think the choice lays in favor of the English high cantle dragoon saddle as being the most suitable and serviceable for the North-West Mounted Police, but I would recommend the following modifications:—

- 1st. The saddle might be somewhat reduced in weight.
- 2nd. That the "cantle" be cut down two inches, as it is in the way of a man mounting; it is also unnecessary in our case, as we carry no valises.
- 3rd. That the crupper and breast plate be done away with and two three-inch web girths be substituted for the leather ones.
- 4th. That the stirrups be of wood instead of iron.
- 5th. That a light close felt numnah accompany each saddle.

The large wooden stirrup, such as used on the California saddle, is very much preferable for prairie work, to the iron (English) pattern.

In winter the iron stirrup is so cold that it becomes unbearable. In summer, to a man whose boots become slippery from constantly walking on the prairie grass, the iron stirrup is a source of annoyance and discomfort owing to the difficulty experienced in keeping the stirrup.

I have already informed the Department that I considered the "Whitman" bit more suitable for the force than the English cavalry bit. The latter is too heavy for prairie work. The "Whitman" bit is a pleasant one for a horse; does not irritate or chafe the mouth, answers also as a strong curb bit suspended by a swivel snap which hooks to any bridle or halter; is a powerful bit, giving the rider perfect control of his horse.

I recommend the English cavalry head collar, which with proper care would last for years, a five ring halter to be exclusively used in the stables, and the English cavalry head collar for outdoor service.

With the "Whitman" bit, bit heads would not be required.

Horses.

The following return shows the distribution of the horses of the force from the latest returns:—

Division Letter.	Name of Station.	Horses.	Brood Mares.	Colts.	Missing.	Totals.	Remarks.
A	Fort Walsh	40	40	"F" Division, horses at Fort Walsh attached. *Colts include: 4 Four-year olds. 18 Three-year olds. 20 Two-year olds. 24 Yearlings and under.
B	Qu'Appelle and Out-station..	46	.....	2	.....	48
C	Fort Macleod do ..	46	41	62	3	152	
D	Battleford do ..	55	.....	2	1	58
E	Fort Walsh.....	30	.....	.....	.....	30
F	Wood Mountain	26	.....	.....	.....	26
	Totals	243	41	*66	4	354	66

From this it will be seen that the force is much under its establishment of horses, more so, even, than is apparent from the above returns, as many of the horses shown therein now require to be cast as being unsuitable for police work.

Few people understand the extraordinary amount of work that the police horses perform. To give an example of this, I cite, as an instance, the distance travelled by Constable Armour and his team from the 1st April to the 1st November last:—

1	trip from Fort Walsh to Morleyville and return.....	640	miles
2	“ “ Benton, U.S., “	640	“
2	“ “ Fort Macleod “	720	“
1	“ “ Coal Bank, U.S., “	250	“
1	“ “ Cow Island, U.S., “	400	“
1	“ “ East End Post, “	130	“
5	“ “ Maple Farm, “	300	“

3,080 “

The establishment of horses in the force should be somewhat increased. The distances travelled in this country are so great that horses coming in from trips on the prairie should have sufficient rest to allow them to recruit their strength before being again detailed for duty. This, with our present number of horses, we cannot do. It often happens that horses come in from some duty that has necessitated their travelling some 300 or 400 miles over the prairie. Before these horses are in a proper condition to be worked, we are forced, with our present slim establishment, to start them off again on some police duty that requires immediate attention.

There is no doubt whatever but that, in the past, this has added materially to the death list.

During the winter months the majority of our horses are not so constantly worked as at other times of the year. I think, then, it would be advisable, with a view of reducing our expenditure for forage, to send (from most of our posts) to the police farm at Fort Macleod as many horses as can be spared, in order that they may be “wintered out.”

The climate about Fort Macleod is sufficiently mild to allow of this being done. There would, of course, be no expense connected with it. In the spring, the horses could be driven back to their various posts.

Experience has taught us that the best class of horses for the force are to be had about the rural districts of Canada.

Force at Fort Walsh.

On the 5th day of August the force at Fort Walsh moved into camp.

The spot selected for an encampment is situated some two miles from Fort Walsh, and was in every respect a suitable one.

The placing of the men under canvass was on the recommendation of the surgeon, and from Doctor Kennedy's report it will be seen that he considers this precautionary measure a most fortunate and successful one. In the same report Doctor Kennedy mentions the manner in which Fort Walsh was cleansed, fumigated, &c., during the time the men were under canvass.

The force returned to Fort Walsh on the 7th day of October.

While in camp, equitation, foot, arm and marching drills (including troop movements) were performed daily. The men here were put through a course of musketry and target practice.

Indian Payments.

On the 4th day of August, Mr. Allan McDonald, Indian Agent of Treaty No. 4, arrived at this post for the purpose of paying the annuities to the Cree Indians at the Indian reservation at “Maple Creek,” and the Assiniboine Indians at the Indian reservation at the head of the Cypress Hills.

Mr. McDonald having applied to me for the service of an officer of the force to aid him in making payments, I detailed Inspector Cotton for this duty.

As Mr. McDonald wished to consult with me on matters relating to the payment of certain Cree Indians who had arrived from the north, I proceeded for that purpose to "Maple Creek."

After the payment of the Cree Indians was completed at Maple Creek, at Mr. McDonald's request, I accompanied him to the head of the Cypress Hills, while he paid the Assiniboine Indians at the Indian reservation there.

I kept an escort of police at Maple Creek and the head of the Cypress Hills during the time the payments were being made.

The money to make these payments, as well as for other Indian payments at Fort Macleod, had been previously brought to me from Qu'Appelle by Sergeant-Major Bradley, who commanded the escort of our force detailed for that purpose.

The money for Fort Macleod I immediately sent there by Inspector McDonnell, who was accompanied by an escort. The remainder I handed over to Mr. McDonald here.

Specia. Visit to Wood Mountain.

On the 18th of November last I left this place for Wood Mountain, accompanied by Inspector Cotton, the Acting Adjutant of the force, and Surgeon Kennedy. We reached there on the 23rd November.

While there I had several long interviews with "Sitting Bull" and other chiefs of the American refugee Sioux.

The reasons that necessitated my visit to Wood Mountain, and the result of the interviews I have alluded to, I have already fully reported to you. It is needless, therefore, that I should here enter into any recapitulation, further than saying that I trust that at no very distant date "Sitting Bull" and his followers will have quietly surrendered to the United States authorities, thus relieving us from what in the past has been a source of great and perpetual anxiety.

Many of the refugee Sioux have already surrendered themselves to the American authorities.

The principal chief so surrendering was "Spotted Eagle," who, with sixty-five lodges, gave himself up at Fort Keogh, United States, during the month of October last. "Spotted Eagle" is a chief of much influence with the Sioux; the number of his followers was considerable. The fact of his having surrendered will not be without its good results, inasmuch as it is likely to be the means of inducing the remaining camp under "Sitting Bull," still on this side of the line, to follow his example.

From Superintendent Crozier's report you will notice that a Sioux Indian named "Low Dog" left Wood Mountain, accompanied by his followers, on the eleventh instant, with the full intention of surrendering.

I am perfectly satisfied that this, to us, most satisfactory state of affairs was brought about from the contents of your messages, which I transmitted to the Sioux at my late interviews with them.

On my return trip from Wood Mountain I experienced very severe and stormy weather, which set in almost immediately after my departure from that post. The thermometer during the six days I was *en route* must have averaged something like 30° below zero. The distance from Fort Walsh to Wood Mountain is 190 miles; of this, 130 miles passes through a barren and bleak plain, where not the slightest particle of wood is to be found.

The officers and men composing the party suffered much from exposure, all being more or less frost-bitten. At times it became necessary to literally dig the horses and conveyances out of snow drifts in the coulees.

This we succeeded in doing until a point within 17 miles of Fort Walsh was reached. Here it was as much as we could do to get the horses themselves out of the snow. When this was accomplished, each officer and man took the harness off a horse and rode bareback into Fort Walsh, which was reached long after dark. On arrival

here we ascertained that the mercury in the thermometer was frozen. Everything we were forced to abandon when the horses were taken out of the harness was brought in the next day.

I have alluded to my return from Wood Mountain in order that some slight idea may be formed as to the hardships encountered by the Mounted Police in the winter trips they are forced to make over the plains. The one I have thus hastily described is no exception; similar occurrences are constantly happening.

Sarcee Indians at Fort Calgary.

During the past month some difficulty was experienced with the "Sarcee" Indians at Fort Calgary. It appears they threatened to help themselves to Government rations. This having been reported to the officer in temporary command at Fort Macleod, he proceeded with a party of 30 men to Fort Calgary, where matters were satisfactorily arranged. I have already forwarded to you the report I received from the officer commanding at Fort Macleod, in which I am informed that the conduct of the men employed in this special duty was satisfactory in every respect.

I also received a letter from Lieut.-Colonel J. F. Macleod, C.M.G., S.M., who, alluding to the men of the force being sent to Fort Calgary, says:—

"I think it a very fortunate thing that this display of force was made."

Probable Change of Site for Fort Macleod Necessary.

I have to call attention to that portion of Superintendent Winder's report, which alludes to the change of course taken by the "Old Man's River."

From this and other reports that have reached me, I fear it will be necessary to change the present site of Fort Macleod before the spring.

Fire at Fort Macleod.

I have already forwarded to you a letter I have received from the officer commanding at Fort Macleod relating to a fire which took place there on the night of the 5th instant, by which the stables and saddler's shop were destroyed. Beyond these buildings the loss of Government property was small.

You are aware of the reasons that have prevented my visiting Fort Macleod since my appointment as Commissioner. I intend leaving for that place almost immediately. The result of my inspection will be transmitted to you without delay.

Hospital on Indian Reservation Required.

I have to call attention to the concluding portion of Dr. Kennedy's report in which he exemplifies the necessity which exists for the establishment of a hospital or infirmary on the Indian Reservations. I fully concur with what Dr. Kennedy says on the subject.

Offences such as "Horse Stealing" Committed along Frontier might with Advantage be made Extraditable.

On the 8th instant I addressed an official communication to you in which I expressed a wish that some understanding might be arrived at between the Dominion and American Governments, by which offenders could be arrested in either Canada or United States for offences committed along the frontier. More particularly would such an arrangement relate to "horse stealing." I notice that Superintendent Crozier in his report goes fully into the subject. He points out how alive the Indians

are to the fact that the International Boundary Line is a barrier behind which they can shield themselves and escape punishment for crimes they are constantly committing. The Indians when speaking of the boundary line are in the habit of—as Superintendent Crozier says—calling it the “medicine line.”

I am of the opinion that if crimes committed along the frontier were considered as extraditable offences, that both countries would derive a benefit from it.

Criminal Cases in “Southern District.”

The statement annexed shows the number of criminal cases tried before the officers of the force, in the southern divisions, during the year ending the 24th December, 1880.

Customs.

The following is the Customs returns of the past year for the Port of Fort Walsh. This return shows the amount of Customs duty collected by police officers up to the 21st instant:—

Total value of goods imported in bond through the United States (exclusive of goods for the North-West Mounted Police).....	\$23,500 00
Total value of goods on which duty was collected.....	84,035 00
Total amount of duty collected.....	17,232 91
Total value of exports.....	nil.

Gaol Required in the North-West Territories.

I would recommend most strongly that a gaol be built at some central point in the North-West Territory, to which prisoners undergoing lengthy sentence might be sent. At all points our guard room accommodation is small, nor do I consider it advisable that our guard rooms should be employed as prisons or penitentiaries.

If this recommendation was acted on I am of opinion that sentences inflicted could be carried out much more effectually than under the present system.

At this moment there are thirteen prisoners confined at Fort Walsh. Guard room accommodation is, properly speaking, only capable of receiving three prisoners. Thus I have been forced to make use of a quarter as a temporary prison room.

Signalling,

The establishment of a proper code of signalling would prove of much utility to the force.

I intend having a suitable code laid down, in which every officer and man will be fully instructed.

Heliography.

I know of no country where heliography, or sun telegraphy, could be more advantageously adopted; nor where the results obtainable would be more likely to be successful.

With a common hand mirror I have already made experiments that, though necessarily limited, as regards distance, were by no means unsuccessful.

While in England last year, I was in a position to judge of the importance with which heliography is now regarded by the military authorities.

During my stay at Aldersot, England, I was, owing to the kindness of Major Le Mesurier, R.E., Inspector of Army Signalling, allowed to inspect the various heliographic instruments under his charge.

The three-inch Mance heliograph is a useful and portable one, could be carried over the shoulders of a mounted or dismounted man without occupying more space than a pair of binoculars or field glasses.

This particular pattern of heliograph is not, however, efficient for a distance of over thirty miles. Doubtless, since my visit to England, some similar instrument available for much greater distance has been invented. I trust the Department will make enquiries on the subject, with a view of obtaining a heliograph suitable for use in this country.

I might here mention that almost every Blackfoot Indian carries a small hand glass around his neck, which he uses for signalling purposes, in addition to the attraction it possesses as an article of toilet.

I am aware that Colonel Macleod has already reported to you the death of Superintendent Edmund Dalrymple Clark, which occurred here on the 2nd October last. I cannot, however, refrain from mentioning the serious loss the Force has sustained from the death of this promising young officer, nor is it possible to overrate the high esteem in which Captain Clark was deservedly held by his comrades of all ranks throughout the force.

I enclose herewith Annual Reports from Superintendents Winder and Crozier, and from Surgeon Kennedy.

I regret extremely that the other reports have not reached me. The weather, of late, has been exceptionally stormy and severe. This will, I fear, be the means of preventing these reports reaching me by the 31st instant, as arranged upon. Under the circumstances, I deem it advisable to forward this without further delay.

Immediately on the arrival of the remaining reports, I will forward them to you.

Before closing this report, I might state that owing to the recent date of my appointment as Commissioner, I have been unable to make a thorough tour of inspection of all the Police posts. This is a matter of much regret to me. There are many subjects requiring attention, which, from lack of information, I have been unable to enter into in this report. I am also fully aware that my report does not contain, by any means, a perfect account of the important service performed by the Police during the past year.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. G. IRVINE,

Commissioner.

NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE.

CRIMINAL CASES tried before Officers of the Force in the Southern Divisions, during the Year ending 31st December, 1880.

Date of Arrest or Committal.	Name of Prosecutor.	Name of Defendant.	Nature of Offence.	Date of Conviction or Acquittal.	Amount of Fine or Punishment.	Remarks.	Place where Tried.	By whom Tried.
1880.				1880.				
Jan. 6	The Queen.....	John Glen.....	Wife desertion	Jan. 8	Discharged.....	Case settled.....	Macleod	Lt.-Col. Macleod, S.M.
Feb. 6	do	M. McDavidson.....	Perjury.....	Feb. 7	Discharged.....	Admitted to bail to appear when called.	do	do
do 19	"Little Pine," Indian.	Chas. Royles.....	Assault.....	do 19	Fined \$5 00.....	Fine paid.....	do	Supt. Winder, J.P.
Mar. 22	P. G. Robinson.....	C. McGillis.....	Assault	Mar. 22	Fined \$2 00.....	do	do	do
do 16	The Queen.....	A. Lachapelle	Selling whiskey.....	do 17	Dismissed	No evidence.....	do	do
Apr. 23	"Dexter," Nez Percé Indian.	Thos. Banbury.....	Disputed wages	Apr. 23	.....	Case settled.....	do	Lt.-Col. Macleod, S.M.
do 23	"Dick," Nez Percé Indian.	Thos. Banbury.....	Disputed wages.....	do 23	.....	do	do	do
do 29	"Cree Woman," Indian.	"The Breaker," Cree Indian.	Assault.....	do 29	2 days' imprisonment.	Imprisoned.....	do	do
June 7	The Queen	A. Lachapelle.....	Selling intoxicants.....	June 8	Fined \$100.00.....	Fine paid.....	do	Supt. Winder, J.P.
May 24	do	James Grant.....	In possession of intoxicating liquor.	May 24	Fined \$50.00	Half fine paid in former.	Wood Mountain.	Supt. Walsh, J.P.
do 24	do	Charles Martin	In possession of intoxicating liquor.	do 24	Fined \$50.00.....	Half fine paid in former.	do	do
June 18	do	"Red Crane," Cree.	Larceny of a sum of money.	June 18	Discharged.....	Insufficient evidence.	Walsh	Lt.-Col. Macleod, S.M.
do 4	do	"Iron Child," Cree.	Horse stealing.....	do 4	Discharged.....	No evidence to commit.	do	do
Aug. 4	do	Fred. Watchter.....	Pointing a rifle with intent.	Aug. 4	.....	Bound to keep the peace for 3 mos.	Macleod....	do
July 18	do	J. Blandin.....	Possession of intoxicating liquor.	July. 18	Fined \$200.00.....	Half fine paid to informer.	Wood Mountain.	Supt. Crozier, J.P.
do 18	do	A. Marchand	Possession of intoxicating liquor.	do 18	Fined \$50.00.....	Half fine paid to informer.	do	do
do 18	do	B. Russette.....	Assault.....	do 18	Discharge	No evidence.....	Walsh	Lt.-Col. Macleod, S.M.
do 19	do	"Thunder Oall," "North Sitting," "The Bird in the Air," Crees.	Bringing into Canada horses stolen in the United States.	do 19	14 days' imprisonment with hard labor each.	Imprisoned; horses returned to owners.	do	do

do	19	do	.....	"The-Man-who-sinks in the Ground," Cree:	Same as above	do	19	7 days' imprison- ment with hard labor.	Imprisoned. This Indian gave in- formation in preceding case.	do	.....	do
Aug.	30	do	.....	Thos. C. Patrick.....	Larceny.....	Aug.	30	9 months'imprison- ment with hard labor.	Imprisoned.....	do	.....	do
July	22	do	.....	Chas. Boissonault....	Possession of intoxi- cants.	July	22	Dismissed	No evidence	Macleod.....	.....	Lt.-Col. Irvine, S.M.
Aug.	4	do	.....	J. S. A. Lambert	Larceny	Aug.	4	3 mos.' imprison- ment with hard work.	Imprisoned.....	do	.....	Lt.-Col. Macleod, S.M.
do	4	do	.....	"Jingling Bells," Blackfoot.	Larceny	do	4	Dismissed	No evidence.....	do	.....	do
do	4	do	.....	"Jingling Bells," Blackfoot.	Escaping from jail in August, 1879.	do	4	7 days' imprison- ment with hard labor.	Imprisoned.....	do	.....	do
July	4	The Queen.....	.....	"Medicine Lodge," Cree.	Murder.....	July	4	Discharged.....	No evidence.	Walsh.....	.....	Lt.-Col. Macleod, S.M.
Aug.	9	do	.....	"Sin-ta-ta," Assini- boine.	Obtaining treaty money under false pretences.	Aug.	9	do	Crime explained and prisoner cau- tioned.	do	.....	Lt.-Col. A. G. Irvine, S.M.
Sept.	9	Annie Boucher...	.....	Mary Tait.....	Assault	Sept.	9	Fined \$2.....	Fine not paid.....	do	.....	Lt.-Col. Macleod, S.M.
do	9	The Queen.....	.....	M. Claustre.....	Contempt of court.....	do	9	do	do	do	.....	do
do	2	"Green Thing," Cree.	.....	J. Stuttaford.....	Assault.....	do	21	Fined \$3.....	Fine paid to prose- cutor.	do	.....	do
Oct.	7	The Queen.....	.....	W. B. Butler and Chas. McAllister.	Selling intoxicants to Indians.	Oct.	7	Discharged.....	Insufficient evi- dence.	do	.....	do and Lt.- Col. A. G. Irvine, S.M.
do	11	do	.....	"Little Fisher," Cree.	Horse stealing.....	do	11	Six months' im- prisonment with hard labor from 29th September last.	Imprisoned.....	do	.....	do do
do	13	Mary Sinclair....	.....	"Friday"	Defamation of character	do	13	Fined \$3.....	Fine not paid.....	do	.....	Lt.-Col. Macleod, S.M.
do	18	The Queen.....	.....	C. R. Rogers	Larceny.....	do	18	Six months' im- prisonment with hard labour.	Imprisoned.....	do	.....	Lt.-Col. A. G. Irvine, S.M.
Nov.	12	Little Gambler...	.....	Hy. Hamilton.....	Assault.....	Nov.	12	Fined \$1.....	Fine paid.....	do	.....	do
Dec.	6	The Queen.....	.....	Wm. Scanlan.....	Possession of intoxica- ting liquors.	Dec.	6	Fined \$50.....	Half fine paid in- former.	do	.....	do
do	6	do	.....	Louis Haggis.....	do	do	6	do	do	do	.....	do
do	6	do	.....	Paul Leveille.....	do	do	6	do	do	do	.....	do
do	6	do	.....	Vital Malette.....	do	do	6	Acquitted	Insufficient evi- dence.	do	.....	do
do	6	do	.....	James Colvin.....	do	do	6	do	do	do	.....	do
do	7	do	.....	Martin Fitzpatrick...	do	do	7	do	do	do	.....	do
do	7	Wm. Sinclair.....	.....	L. Cobell.....	Using threatening lan- guage.	do	7	Fined \$1.....	Fine paid.....	do	.....	do
do	7	Jos. Ethier.....	.....	Peter Macdonald	Assault.....	do	7	Fined \$5.....	do	do	.....	do

CRIMINAL CASES tried before Officers of the Force, &c.—Continued.

Date of Arrest or Committal.	Name of Prosecutor.	Name of Defendant.	Nature of Offence.	Date of Conviction or Acquittal.	Amount of Fine or Punishment.	Remarks.	Place where Tried.	By Whom Tried.
1880.	The Queen.....	{ Wm. A. Cooper... D. H. Thompson... Geo. Scott. Geo. Jas. Convery Robt. M. Morton... Geo. B. Mills..... H. P. Wilbur..... Malcom McDonald }	Horse stealing and stealing Government property.			In gaol at Fort Walsh awaiting trial.		

NOTE.—There have been other cases tried at Fort McLeod, but returns have not as yet reached headquarters.

 SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF COMMISSIONER.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT WALSH, N.W.T.,
18th January, 1881..

SIR,—Since I forwarded my report I visited Fort Macleod. I left this post on the 30th December last, and reached Fort Macleod on the 3rd instant.

The course of the "Old Man's" River at Fort Macleod has changed.

This river at high water deviates from its original course in two places, passing immediately in front and rear of the fort. In rear the water flows within a few feet of the west side of the fort.

The deviations made from the original course of the "Old Man's" River have continued, becoming more and more formidable.

It is quite possible, in fact probable, that in the coming spring many of the present buildings would be carried away if left in their present positions.

Taking all things into consideration it is absolutely necessary that Fort Macleod be removed from its present site.

I recommend that a new site be selected at the police farm, which is situated some thirty miles south-west from where the fort now stands.

This farm is in all respects suitable for the location of a post.

Building material can be readily obtained from the Rocky Mountains in the vicinity of the farm.

From this change of location the cost of the maintenance of a post would be most materially reduced. Wood and coal, for instance, could be obtained by our men near the farm.

The farm produce too would, by the change I recommend, always be at hand, which would virtually be a considerable saving, as under existing circumstances, everything has to be hauled 30 miles.

The wear and tear then of farm material would be reduced.

There are at present a considerable number of settlers about the police farm, and I have every reason to believe that this number will soon become largely increased.

This point will, beyond doubt, shortly become one of importance.

It is a particularly fine stock raising country.

At present the trails leading to Fort Macleod pass by "Whoop Up," Slide-out" and "Stand Off."

It would be necessary to establish a small police out-post and custom house at some central point in the neighborhood of these places, to inspect trains and waggons coming in.

I recommend, that immediately on the location of the new post being decided upon, that a survey of a town site be made in order to prevent buildings being erected in an indiscriminate manner.

I made an inspection of the police farm and found everything in a most satisfactory condition. The greater part of the up-hill work is now over; most of the necessary improvements made.

I enclose herewith annual reports from Superintendents Jarvis and Herchmer, Inspector Steele, Surgeon Miller, and a supplementary report from Superintendent Crozier.

I have to call your attention to that portion of Superintendent Herchmer's report in which he mentions the increase of barrack accommodation required at Battleford and Fort Saskatchewan. I recommend most strongly that his suggestions be acted on.

I also attach a further return of cases tried here since the closing of my report.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

A. G. IRVINE,
Commissioner.

The Honorable
The Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa.

ADDITIONAL Cases tried at Fort Walsh, up to 30th December, 1880.

Date of Arrest or Committal.	Name of Prosecutor.	Name of Defendant.	Nature of Offence.	Date of Conviction or Acquittal.	Amount of Fine or Punishment.	Remarks.	Place.	By whom Tried.
1880.				1880.				
Dec. 24...	Ellen Campbell..	Louis Haggis	Assault.....	Dec. 27...	Fined \$10.00 and costs.	Fine paid.....	Fort Walsh.....	Lt.-Col. A. G. Irvine, S.M.
do 27...	The Queen.....	Chas. Boissonnault	Selling intoxicants.....	do 27...	Fined \$50.00 and costs,	Fine paid; intoxicants destroyed.	do	do do
do 24...	S. Horner.....	Thomas Dunbar....	Assault and drawing a revolver in a threatening manner.	1881. Jan. 15...	Eight months' imprisonment with hard labour.	Imprisonment.....	do	do do

A. G. IRVINE,
Commissioner, N.W.M.P.

 REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT W. D. JARVIS.

FORT MACLEOD, 7th January, 1881.

SIR,—I regret that, in forwarding my annual report, I am unable to give a full account of the duties performed by myself and the men under my command up to the month of July last, as I was then transferred from Fort Saskatchewan, and the books and memoranda having been left there, I have no doubt that the officer now in charge will make a satisfactory report of the work done there. But up to the time of my leaving I beg to state, as I had the pleasure of doing last year, that the conduct of the men was most praiseworthy, as hardly any of them were brought before me for offences against the Police Act, and that I was ably assisted in my duties by Inspector Gagnon. Since my arrival at Fort Macleod the work has been up-hill. Until the end of October, I had not enough men to carry on the ordinary barrack duties. Nevertheless, the few I had worked most creditably, and did severe duty without complaint.

I find the horses of "C" Division nearly worked out, and, with the present ration of oats, it is impossible to get them into or keep them in condition. The stables were destroyed by fire on the 5th December, as has been already reported. A few horses are billeted in the village; the remainder are herded on Willow Creek, about three miles from the post, and are doing as well as could be expected for horses in low condition. It being absolutely necessary to have shelter for the horses, I have taken the responsibility of building a stable to accommodate 20 horses at a cost of \$500.00. The losses by the fire have already been reported, and as nearly all the saddles were destroyed, I have sent to Fort Saskatchewan for as many as can be spared. I have visited the Police Farm several times, and found the work being done as well as possible, and the oat crop good, considering the unusually bad season.

I beg particularly to call your attention to the soldier like behaviour of the detachment of thirty men under Inspector Denny, when obliged to ride to Fort Calgary and back, a distance of 200 miles, in the depth of winter, without tents or any of the usual comforts of a soldier on the line of march.

As nearly as I can estimate, since my arrival here, various Officials of the Indian Department have travelled with either two or four-horse teams belonging to this division, a distance of 1,980 miles.

The total amount of Customs duty collected here for the year 1880 amounts to \$15,433.38. There have been fifteen cases tried by police officers, besides those brought before the resident Stipendiary Magistrate. Sixty gallons of smuggled whiskey were seized and destroyed by the police since my taking over command here.

I regret that reports have been made to the Government respecting spirits being sold in Fort Macleod, and I honestly state that the reports are much overrated.

A certain amount of spirits does come in on permit from the Lieut.-Governor, but very little drunkenness is apparent, though there have been a few cases.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. D. JARVIS,

Superintendent.

The Commissioner N.W.M.P.

Forwarded

A. G. IRVINE,

Commissioner.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT W. WINDER.

FORT WALSH, N.W.T., December 12th, 1880.

SIR,—In accordance with your instructions, I have the honor to forward you herewith the following report of Fort Macleod district from the 1st January to the 10th August.

I regret that not having access to the official diary at Fort Macleod, I will be unable to make this report as complete and accurate as I should have wished.

With few exceptions the conduct of the men under my command has been excellent.

The force was put through the usual annual drill, commencing on April 12th and continuing until June 1st. The target practice, considering the circumstances, was good, but I do not think the issue of ammunition is sufficient to allow the men to become proficient in marksmanship. They are armed with the old Snider carbine, which I consider inferior to the Winchester as a military arm.

Last year I reported that the Old Man's River had changed its course breaking through a narrow neck of land that divided the main stream from a slough. This year the river reverted to its old bed, breaking through lower down, cutting off another large portion of the island on which the Fort is built, and causing the demolition of several houses. The soil of the island is a loose mixture of sand and gravel, and to show the strength and velocity of the current I may mention that in one night one hundred and twenty yards of the bank was washed away. To save the saw-mill from being swept away it was necessary to move it from its old site. The whole lower portion of the island, including a part of the farm, was inundated, and the water rose so high as to approach within twenty yards of the Fort itself. The level of the flood was not five feet from the floors in the Fort. Judging from what I have observed during the last two years, I consider that the present site of the Fort will be unsafe if the water should rise as high as it has done in the past.

With the exception of a new roof on the hospital, very little building has been done.

Up to the time that I handed over the command to Superintendent Jarvis, thirty-nine men had taken their discharges; some of them had completed their term of service, and the remainder took advantage of the Order in Council dated 5th April, A.D. 1880.

This number includes two who were invalided. Of these thirty-nine men twenty-five remained in the country, some of them taking up land and going into cattle raising. The settlement in the vicinity is consequently increasing.

I am happy to be able to state that cattle killing by the Indians has decreased very much since last year, only one case was reported, and although arrests were made conviction was impossible, on account of insufficient evidence.

The settlers now say that since the Government has been feeding the Indians regularly they have not been troubled by them.

The Indian Agent arrived here on the 13th of April, up to this time between two and three hundred Indians had been fed daily, all the work being done by the police. These Indians were employed as much as possible in work about the Fort, and never gave us the slightest trouble. On the arrival of Mr. Macleod all Indian affairs were turned over to him.

Early in February a report reached me that considerable destitution existed among the Stoney Indians at Calgary and Morleyville. By order of the Commissioner I sent Inspector Frechette to relieve the distress. His report on this subject was forwarded to the then Commissioner of the Police.

About the middle of June, Patterson, the man in charge of the Indians at Black-foot Crossing, reported to Mr. Macleod, the agent, that he was having considerable difficulty with them. On the 18th I accordingly accompanied the agent to the Crossing, conversed with several of the head men, and found them all quiet and peaceably disposed. I therefore considered that Patterson had become unnecessarily

alarmed, but as he seemed to have great fears for his personal safety Mr. Macleod allowed him to resign, leaving another man in his place.

On the 18th July Inspector Macdonell and party arrived from Fort Walsh with money for the Indian payments. The payments commenced soon afterwards, and were carried on almost wholly by the officers of the police. Inspector McIlree paid the Bloods at Macleod, Inspector Dickens the Piegans on their reserve, Inspector Frechette the Stoneys at Morleyville, and I accompanied the agent to the Blackfeet Crossing to assist in paying the Indians there.

We were detained at the Crossing for several days owing to the non-arrival of carts containing flour and provisions usually given to the Indians at these payments.

During this time the agent and myself had several councils with the Indians, and the Sarcees expressed a decided wish to have a reservation of their own, separate from the Blackfeet. As soon as the carts containing the goods arrived the payments commenced and passed off without any difficulty.

On receipt of their money the Indians immediately supplied themselves with clothing and provisions, and seemed to spend very little of their money in useless articles as they had been in the habit of doing in former years.

A great variety of miscellaneous services have been rendered to the Indian Department by the police, but as the record is kept at Macleod I am unable to give the details.

I am sorry to have to allude to the death of two members of the force, Constable Hall of "F" Division, who died in hospital, and Constable Hooley of "F" Division, who was drowned in Belly River on the 24th July.

I annex a return showing the magisterial work performed at Macleod up to the time of my leaving there.

On July 16th the Indian "Jingling Bells," who escaped from the guard-room last year, was cleverly recaptured by Corporal Patterson in the Blood camp, to which he had returned in disguise.

Before concluding, I beg leave to suggest and recommend that a hay press be procured and forwarded to Fort Macleod before the coming summer, as owing to the high winds prevailing there during the season for cutting hay, large quantities of the same are lost in transport from the hay field to the corral at the Fort, and from the corral to the stables.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. WINDER,

Superintendent.

Lient.-Col. IRVINE,
Commissioner N.W.M.P.,
Fort Walsh.

Forwarded,
A. G. IRVINE,
Commissioner.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT J. M. WALSH.

BROCKVILLE, 31st December, 1880.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following report for the year ending 31st December, 1880 :—

January 1st. Sitting Bull and Sioux Indians (about 450 lodges) were encamped on Frenchman Creek, north and south of the 49th parallel. During this month the snow was very deep, and I found it hard to keep close communication with the camp, but the Indians did not venture out more than the necessity of procuring food compelled them. Nothing transpired of notice during the month of January.

February 1st. Report reached me that the "Minnicangon," an Indian who for over a year I had been persuading to return to a United States reservation, had, with 60 lodges of Sioux, surrendered to the United States authorities at Poplar Creek Agency, and also that 20 lodges of Brules Sioux had returned to Spotted Tail Agency to surrender.

February 2nd. Was obliged to send nine horses to cattle herd at foot of the mountain, 25 miles distant from the post, owing to their being under a slight attack of scurvy, which disease has prevailed in this district for some time.

February 22nd. Kendall Smith & Co., failing to furnish 20 tons of hay promised me, I was forced to send six additional horses to herd and reduce the forage of hay to 12 lbs. per day, and increase the forage oats to 8 lbs. per day, for the remaining horses. The herd returned to the post about 1st May, and although the winter was the severest experienced for years in Wood Mountain, and grass very scarce, owing to great prairie fires that passed over the country in the autumn, both horses and cattle were in very good condition. This, from other facts previously represented, proves conclusively that Wood Mountain is a stock-raising as well as an agricultural district; that horses and cattle and sheep can run the hills during the winter months without any danger of perishing by storm, by cold or by want of grass. Highly prized as Bow River district may be as a stock-raising country, and although it may have an advantage over Wood Mountain by possessing a more extended range and having a somewhat shorter winter, yet in all other respects it cannot excel Wood Mountain. The grass of Wood Mountain is as good, if not superior, to that of Bow River, and Wood Mountain has a great advantage over Bow River by being 400 miles nearer to the eastern markets. No part of Montana—and Montana is quoted highly as a stock-raising country—can produce a more nutritious grass, and hills and valleys more abundantly supplied, than Wood Mountain, added to which it is fertile from its western to its eastern limit. Both valley and bench land can be cultivated. Timber may be somewhat scarce owing to fires that occurred some few years ago, but there is a young growth rising up that will again soon fill the vast coulees. There can be no want of fuel in Wood Mountain, for coal can be seen in the face of the creek banks.

March 6th. On this day, guide and interpreter Joseph Lariviere left the post on foot about 4 p.m. to go to his home, one mile distant. He called at the house of one Barheam, about half way, and warmed himself, and then proceeded on his journey; after which time I could find no positive proof that he was again seen alive. His duty being such as to give liberty to absent himself for the purpose of visiting the camps and villages to pick up news, he was not missed until the morning of the 8th, when it was reported to me that he had not reached home. The evening of his departure from the post there was a very severe snow storm, and the conclusion arrived at was that he possibly got lost, and perhaps was still wandering about the mountain. I at once despatched all available men with horses and about 20 Indians, and every possible search was made, without effect. In the month of June his body was found about six miles south-east of the post. Hospital Sergeant Holmes examined the body, and no marks of violence being visible, decided that Lariviere came to his death by perishing in a storm. The body was interred by the police a few yards from where it was found.

March 10th. Sioux Chiefs "Broad Trail" and "Little Knife," with 40 lodges, arrived at this post. They informed me that 125 lodges of Sioux Indians had surrendered at Poplar Creek and were drawing rations. The remainder of the tribe including Bull, were scattered in hunting camps along the Frenchman Creek and Milk River.

April 1st. The Sioux camp at this post had increased to 150 lodges, with Bull at its head. The meat of the camp this day became exhausted and owing to the poor condition of the Indian horses, the buffalo, 70 miles distant, could not be reached and further supply could not be procured. Hunger and suffering prevailed for the next five or six weeks. Horses that died from scurvy, and carcasses of horses that died during the autumn and early winter, were gathered up and eaten. In some cases persons became so reduced as to render them unable to assist themselves, and I was

forced to make small issues of food to save their lives. Following this want of food and the eating of diseased horses, an epidemic appeared, which marked its results by the many graves now to be seen in Wood Mountain. The conduct of those starving and destitute people, their patient endurance, their sympathy, and the extent to which they assisted each other, their strict observance of law and order, would reflect credit upon the most civilized community.

I am pleased to inform you, as no doubt it will give you pleasure to know, that the greatest good feeling and consideration was extended to those poor sufferers by the men at Wood Mountain Post. The little that was daily left from their table was carefully preserved and meted out as far as it would go, to the women and children. During this five or six weeks of distress, I do not think that one ounce of food was wasted at Wood Mountain Post. Every man appeared to be interested in saving what little he could, and day after day they divided their rations with those starving people. I must further mention that the Indians received assistance from the half-breeds:

April 4th. Iron Dog, Sioux chief, returned to Spotted Tail Agency. I received a letter from the Indian Agent at Red Cloud Agency: it informed me that a party of Sioux Indians under "Waterspout," persuaded by me to return and surrender, had arrived at his agency.

April 22nd. Captured Alex. Bresum, who was attempting to evade Customs Act; fined him \$50.

April 24th. "The One that Killed the White Man," Ogallalla, Sioux, and three lodges, left my post for Fort Keogh, for the purpose of surrendering to General Miles.

May 10th. Sioux Chief "Hairy Chin" and twelve lodges returned to the Missouri River, with the intention of surrendering and settling on a reservation. At this date, by arrivals from the plains, the camp had increased to 240 lodges. Buffalo were reported at Milk River, and hunting parties with meat began to arrive. I again commenced counselling the Indians to return to the United States, pointing out as clearly as possible the absurdity of their expecting any assistance from the Canadian Government; also the great inducement held out to them by the United States, being similar to what was now being done by the United States Government for Indians already on reservations. Day after day I have placed this before them, and pressed them not to delay too long accepting the offer made by the United States, for the privilege of returning on such favorable conditions might any day be withdrawn. Though "Sitting Bull" opposed for a year and a half my arguments, setting forth the benefit and happiness that he and his people would receive by their surrender, my view of the question during this time kept gradually gaining strength, and at this date the camp became so favorably impressed that "Bull," finding his opposition unavailing, said:—"The people of my camp who wish to return to agencies can do so, I will place no obstacle in their way." He kept his word, and within the next five days, 50 lodges were on the move to the Missouri River, with a view of surrendering.

June 7th. "Sitting Bull," under excitement, owing to the result of a very stormy council meeting, made an attempt to rescue one of his followers, a prisoner that I had caused to be arrested at the instance of Mr. Légarree, Magistrate at Wood Mountain. By a determined resistance made by the Police, twenty in number, "Bull" and his warriors were forced to retire from the post. Several reports having reached me that evening and the following morning that "Bull" contemplated an attack on the post, though I did not put much reliance in the reports, I deemed it prudent to barricade the approaches to the post, that in the event of an attack, I could not only successfully repel it, but offer good protection to the trading establishments in the immediate vicinity. I kept up the barricade for several days, until "Bull" came and apologized for his conduct, and asked my forgiveness, which I granted him.

May 19th. Sioux camp reduced at my post to 100 lodges. "Bull" admitted that there are only 150 lodges of the once large camp of Tetons Sioux north of the

line, the others having returned to the United States with a view to surrendering. He expressed his intention of remaining in Canada, but said he was prepared to shake hands with the Americans and end all feeling of hostility between them and himself. "These," he said, "are words never spoken and sentiments never felt by me before. To-day I show you my heart; you can make known my feelings."

May 25th. I this day arrested Grant and Martin for breach of the liquor law, and fined them each \$50 and costs. I here wish to favorably mention the name of Constable James Davis, to whom I entrusted, with Constable Fearon, the ferreting out of this case. Davis discovered sufficient evidence to criminate the parties and sent Fearon to inform me. In the absence of Fearon, three men, whom Davis wished to secure, undertook to leave Grant's house, and Davis arrested them, when they made a determined effort to escape; but Davis, by firmness and coolness, succeeded in holding them until assistance reached him, when he conveyed them to the post.

June 7th. By the assistance of Sitting Bull I recovered from the Sioux camp at Burnt Timber, nine horses, the property of the United States Government and citizens, and returned them to Mr. Porter, United States Indian Agent at Poplar Creek.

July 7th. Previous to my departure from Wood Mountain Sitting Bull requested me to interest myself in his behalf to secure a home for him in Canada, with certain privileges attached. I explained to him that it would be but a waste of labor on my part to undertake any such task, and a waste of time on his part to await the results. I endeavored to persuade him to give up all idea of remaining in Canada. He persisted in his desire, and added that if the Canadians refused to give him a home (or using his own words, "if the 'White Mother' is determined to drive me out of her country, and force me into the hands of people I know are but awaiting, like hungry wolves, to take my life,") would I not see the President of the United States and ascertain the best conditions on which he (Bull) would be permitted to return, and if the conditions would be faithfully and fully carried out. To this I replied: "If the Canadian Government permit me to do so, I will comply with your request."

By examining reports it will be found that "Sitting Bull" and his followers, two years ago, had a very hostile feeling towards the people of the United States, so much so that "Bull" said the sight of an American made him sick. On 1st of April this year, "Bull" informed his followers that any of them desiring to return to the United States might do so. On the 19th of May last he said he was ready to shake hands with the Americans. On the 6th of July he requested me to see the President in his behalf. Permit me to explain how the change in this man and his followers was brought about. Neither hunger nor prospective starvation in his camp at any time tended to effect it, as many persons imagine, but it was done by patient, hard work, days and nights of steady persuasion, argument, and illustration, to establish in the minds of the Indians a confidence in the people of the United States, and sense of security in their dealings with them. I taught them that it was their duty to discipline their hearts to a better feeling towards the people to whom they were naturally allied, and to whom they must return at no distant day; and the necessity of a more friendly and better consideration by them of the conditions of surrender offered by the United States Government. That the American people were prepared to assist them I proved by what they were doing for the Sioux Indians at the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail and other Agencies. I consider it of the greatest importance to both countries, that Sitting Bull be settled either in one or the other, for while he is wandering about the plains the tranquility of the frontier cannot be considered certain. His unsettled camps keep up a constant friction amongst the Indians on both sides of the line. The dissatisfied Indians at the American agencies knowing that they will be welcome at his camp, and the young warriors be attracted by the love of free life that exists around Bull, cannot become reconciled to living quietly on a reservation. The bad influence of this wandering life of "Bull's" extends to our Indians.

I now beg to make a few remarks on a report that has gone the rounds of the press, both in Canada and the United States, that I was negotiating with Sitting Bull to induce him to consent to be exhibited through the country. Idle and absurd as such reports may seem, yet I feel it my duty to emphatically contradict them, and to say, though I have been asked to assist in securing an engagement of Sitting Bull, I have always declined to do so. Another report, as I am informed, has also gained currency, that Sitting Bull would have surrendered during the last summer, had it not been for the encouragements which I held out to him, of possibly being able to return to his camp with better terms of surrender than the United States had accorded to other Indians. As to this, I beg to say that this report is likewise false, for I have never given Sitting Bull any such encouragement. As I have already stated, after most urgent requests made by Sitting Bull, I told him if the Canadian Government would permit me, I would see the President or Secretary of the Interior for him. I never heard Bull demur very much to the conditions of surrender offered him by the United States Government. His only objection appeared to be the doubt that the conditions would be carried out, and particularly with regard to himself.

July 15th. I handed over the Wood Mountain District to Superintendent Crozier, and took my departure for Qu'Appelle, my new district, which place I reached after a march of four days, and where I met a detachment of my division under command of Inspector Steele, who had arrived some weeks preceding. Inspector Steele had taken over the district from Superintendent Herchmer. I remained at the Qu'Appelle five days, during which time I decided upon the necessary barrack and stable accommodation required for the division during the winter, to be erected by the men of the division Inspector Steele to conduct the work in my absence. I visited Shoal Lake and handed over the police quarters at that place to the Indian Department, reserving barrack and stable room for six men and horses. Having been granted a sick leave, I proceeded from this place (Shoal Lake) to Brockville, Ont.

With so small a force as I had at Wood Mountain, it was very hard to keep up proper discipline, but the conduct of the detachment was extremely good, as can be seen by the few entries against the men composing it, in the annual defaulters' sheet of the force.

As the saddlery of the force must be very soon renewed, I would recommend to your notice the Whitman saddle, pattern lately adopted by the U.S. army. It is lighter and less perishable than any saddle manufactured, and lightness and durability are the essential qualities for a saddle in the police service. Mr. Whitman, late of the U.S. army, the patentee of this saddle, is a cavalry officer of much experience, and from direct observation on frontier service of what class of saddle would be most suitable for rough service, for ease and comfort to horse and rider, decided on the one now recommended. I have used for several years a No. 17 Californian saddle, from which sprung Mr. Whitman's first idea of the saddle brought out by him, and during that period had many opportunities of trying its superior qualities, on long and fast rides both in summer and winter, and not in one instance did I find this saddle to gall my horse. I have used the Whitman saddle for six months and find it equal in all respects to the Californian, besides having the advantage of being much cheaper, and lighter and less perishable. The bearings of the Whitman on the horse's back are the same as the Californian tree No. 17. I would suggest an examination of this saddle before adopting any other.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

J. W. WALSH,

Superintendent N.W.M.P.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT L. N. F. CROZIER.

WOOD MOUNTAIN, Dec., 1880.

SIR,—In accordance with instructions, I have the honor to submit the following Report:—

INDIANS AT FORT WALSH.

At the beginning of the year I was in command at Fort Walsh. There were at that time in the vicinity of the Fort between five and six hundred Indians to whom I was issuing rations. After receiving their annuities, Indians from all parts of the Territory came to the Cypress Hills in pursuit of buffalo, but, finding there were none in that section, a good many at once crossed the international boundary, and continued travelling until they found game. A large proportion, doubtless, thinking they would, in any case, be looked after by the Government, made up their minds to remain within easy reach of Fort Walsh for the winter. Knowing the provisions on hand would not be equal to the heavy drain such a number of people would make upon them, I determined to make every possible effort to induce them to leave for the buffalo country before the season became too far advanced for travelling on the plains. By dint of talking and persuasion, I at last prevailed upon numbers to leave; those remaining, to the number above stated, being in most instances so badly off for horses that they could not move—a regular issue of rations had to be made to them for the winter. I found it necessary, shortly after the winter had set in, to establish a small detachment at the Big Island Lake, about twenty-one miles from the Fort, and where the Indian Department cattle were then herded, in order the more conveniently to feed about two hundred Indians whom I had brought there from different places. Before doing this, provisions had to be taken to the camps by the police, in some instances as far as sixty miles, and, as the season advanced, this service became, not only frequent and difficult, but dangerous. The Indian horses were so wretchedly reduced from cold and scarcity of grass that they were not even able to carry food from the Fort to their camps. I cannot help remarking that it was fortunate, indeed, that the Indians about the Cypress Hills were looked after and able to procure a supply of provisions from the Fort, otherwise hundreds certainly would have starved to death. Feeling the necessity of economizing the supplies on hand in every possible way, I purchased tackle and nets, that by fishing the Indians might, to a certain extent, help to gain their living. The experiment was at first only partially successful, notwithstanding my sending members of the force, experienced fishermen, with the Indians to the different lakes to set their nets and render all possible instruction and assistance. Towards spring, however, a considerable number of fish were caught by the Indians in the lake at the head of the mountain, where the Assiniboine Reservation now is, and after the opening of the season fish in several small creeks became very numerous, so numerous that they were literally "scooped up." At one time thousands of Indians were receiving food from this source.

I issued, also, from time to time, ammunition, for, although game of all sorts was scarce during the winter, the young men were able to shoot something occasionally, which helped to prevent the expenditure of the supplies so necessary in the event of a large influx of Indians.

INDIANS COMING IN FROM PLAINS.

About the middle of April the Indians commenced coming in large numbers from Milk River, on the American side, where they had wintered. In every instance they were starving. Many said they had but little to eat during the greater part of the winter, and would have come to the Fort sooner had they been able; men and teams were kept constantly on the road with provisions to meet and feed the starving

camps as they arrived. The number of Indians increased daily, until at one time there were as many as five thousand about the Fort. Every effort was made to induce them to move on to their own country as soon as able; but for a long time without avail. Those who came in from the plains were certainly not in a condition to move; on the other hand, those who had been about the Fort all winter were in much better condition to travel. I tried in every possible way to get rid of them—gave them supplies sufficient to last them to the end of their journey, but after eating everything up they would invariably return with some sort of an excuse and ask for more.

It was not until June that any of the camps left for their own agencies, and then they were only induced to do so by sending trains of provisions with detachments of police in charge, who served out to them a ration from day to day as they travelled along.

HORSE STEALING.

When the spring opened horse stealing prevailed to a fearful extent. There were at one time camped out together Sioux, Crees, Bloods, Blackfeet, Salteaux, and occasional war parties from the American tribes living along the Missouri, all of whom were stealing each from the other.

I very much feared a serious collision between the tribes would be the result of so much stealing. Angry altercations occurred more than once, and shots were fired by a party of Assiniboines into the Sarcee camp. The Sarcees wisely refrained from returning the fire, and placed matters in the hands of the police.

Perhaps no better proof could be adduced of the authority and influence of the force, and the respect in which it is held, than the fact of detachments being able, when the Indians were greatly excited, to enter their camps and recover stolen property. Certainly I can say that it was only by the constant and prompt action, as well as mediation of the police, that much serious trouble between the tribes was averted.

THE INDIAN PAYMENTS.

By instructions received from the Indian Commissioner, I assembled the chiefs of the Northern Indians on the 2nd of May; informed them there would be no payments at the Sounding Lake, and asked where, instead of that place, they wished to receive their annuities. Their answers I forwarded to Mr. Dewdney and the agents at Battleford and Edmonton.

DAILY ROUTINE AT FORT WALSH.

In addition to the ordinary duties and routine, foot, riding and gun drill was carried on during the entire winter and spring.

The gun detachment was put through a regular course of firing practice under the supervision of the artillery officer.

The annual carbine practice took place in the autumn of 1879. There was commanding officer's parade every week, when arms, clothing and ammunition were inspected. Kit, saddle and medical inspections were also held weekly.

ARRIVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER.

Commissioner Macleod and Mr. Galt arrived from Fort Macleod on the 29th May. The former took command of the Fort, the latter management of the Indians.

INSPECTION BY COMMISSIONER.

On the 28th June, the division under my command was paraded (mounted) for inspection and drill before the Commissioner. At the conclusion of the parade the Commissioner complimented the officers and men upon the general efficiency of the

troop. On the following day the Commissioner had a thorough inspection of the kits, quarters, arms, ammunition, &c.

On the 8th of July, I left Fort Walsh with the Commissioner to take over the command at Wood Mountain, to which place the headquarters of my division had been lately transferred.

WOOD MOUNTAIN.

On the 13th of July the Commissioner, self and escort arrived at Wood Mountain. I took over the command from Superintendent Walsh, who left with his detachment for Qu'Appelle on the 15th July.

ARREST OF WHISKEY TRADERS.

On the 18th of July, I arrested and fined two men, Blondin and Marchand, \$200 and \$50 respectively and costs for trading and having intoxicating liquor illegally in their possession. The liquor, thirty gallons of whiskey, was also seized and spilled.

THE SIOUX.

Since my arrival here I have had frequent interviews with the hostile Sioux, when I urged upon them the necessity of accepting the terms of surrender offered by the Americans. On the 18th of July, the Chief "Spotted Eagle" came to see me. I had a long council with him and informed him of the message I had received from the "Queen's Council House." At the conclusion of our talk he said he would return to his own country and surrender. His words were:—"Now that there is to be no more blood spilt upon the American side, I will shake hands with the Americans strong and live in my own country." The old warrior went from here to the Yankton Camp on the Red Water Creek, where he remained until October, when, with about sixty-five lodges, he surrendered to the American authorities at Fort Keogh.

DEPARTURE OF THE SIOUX.

From the first interview I had with Sitting Bull, after my arrival here, I noticed that he wished, whatever his reasons or objects might be, to delay the surrender of the hostiles. I therefore concluded to break his influence with the camp; consequently, on subsequent occasions instead of treating him with exceptional deference and addressing myself especially to him in council, I spoke to the people generally, telling them not to allow any one or any set of men to prevent their accepting the American terms of surrender. I explained how much their women and children would benefit by such a step; that whatever they as men thought, or whatever prejudices any particular man had respecting the Americans, they would be cruel to their families if they longer rejected the offer, now that starvation was imminent in this country and that they could not hunt south of the line without a constant dread of attack from the American troops.

This and similar arguments constantly used not only in council but whenever I met any of the Indians, no matter what their standing, soon began to have an effect upon the camp, in fact so great an effect that Sitting Bull and his soldiers had to prevent lodges leaving several times by force. You will remember my having so reported to you not long since. About three weeks ago the whole camp arrived near the fort; Sitting Bull upon arrival came at once to see me; by his conversation and manner it was plain that he felt his influence was fast waning, and although he told me, as he had often done before, that he was going soon to surrender, one could see that he wished to delay as long as possible.

On the 3rd of December, I had a long talk with Low Dog. He said: "I want you to tell me all about the message you have received from the Queen." I did so and impressed upon him how foolish the people were to remain here and starve,

because of the whim or selfish caprice of one or a few men, I said, if any wish to remain behind let them do so, but why should they keep back all the others. "Low Dog" said in reply: "There are people in the camp now who want to go, as I before told you, I want to go and I will go, send your interpreter with me to the camp that he may bear witness that I am telling the truth, when I repeat what you have told me, and I will take away so many lodges that the rest will be bound to follow." I felt now that not only would the influence of "Sitting Bull" be broken but that there would be such dissension in the camp, and so many people would follow the lead of "Low Dog," that the few remaining, including Sitting Bull would, by force of circumstances, be compelled to go with them. My anticipations have been so far realized that with the exception of a few individuals, the camp left here with the full determination of surrendering. On the morning of the 11th December they broke camp, "Low Dog" had broken up the old and formed a new "soldier lodge," (which is the governing power of the camp). When I last heard of them on the morning of the 12th, they were across the line and travelling fast. Of course something may occur to cause them to change their minds, and until they actually surrender it can not be said that we are positively rid of them.

HORSE STEALING.

Horse stealing prevailed to a great extent in this vicinity during the autumn. Among other cases I reported to you that of a party of Indians (supposed to be American) who after securing the horses, fired into a lodge and killed a half-breed named Antoine Laplante. Unless some understanding is arrived at between the American and Canadian Governments that offenders may be promptly and vigorously dealt with, I very much fear that killing and stealing will increase to such an extent that the country along the border will be scarcely habitable. When the Indians are made to understand that the mere fact of "hopping" across the line does not exempt them from punishment, there will be a much greater guarantee of their good behaviour. Now they call the boundary the "Medicine line," because no matter what they have done upon one side they feel perfectly secure after having arrived upon the other.

Disabuse their minds of any such idea by delivering offenders to the authorities of the country in which crime is committed, then punish them as their offences merit, and trouble to a great extent from horse stealing and other Indian outrages along the border will cease.

The instances have been few that we have not been able to recover from our Indians horses stolen by them from the American side. It cannot, however, be said that the Americans have been as successful in recovering property for us.

Their officials are certainly always ready and willing to do whatever lies in their power, but heretofore there has either not been a sufficient force in the Indian country to support the civil authorities in carrying out the laws, or their system is at fault. Our Indians cannot understand why the Canadian authorities make them return all the animals they procure south of the line, while they cannot receive similar redress from the Americans.

STRENGTH OF THE FORCE AT WOOD MOUNTAIN.

The strength of the force necessary to be permanently maintained here will depend, to a great extent, upon the location of the Indian reservations upon both sides of the line, as well as the action of the Indians themselves. If Indian reservations are situated close to the line, it is only to be expected that a strong force will have to be maintained upon both sides, not only to prevent trouble between the Indians of the two countries, which for some years, at least, would be very apt to occur, but to give a sense of safety and security to settlers. On the other hand, if the Indians are placed on reservations and settle down a considerable distance from the border, it does not seem to me that there would be the same reason for maintaining a large force along the frontier. During the present unsettled state of affairs, a force

of at least fifty men should be stationed here until the surrendered hostile Sioux are settled upon their reservations, and even afterwards, unless they are placed far from the border, and well watched, we will have to expect the presence of parties of their young men from time to time, and as they will not have the same interest in behaving themselves as when this country was their home, it is only natural to suppose that they will not restrain their mischievous inclinations. In fact, should they come, they would do so, in all probability, as "war parties," which means horse stealing, or when necessary or convenient, killing people as well. Threats to that effect have, I understand, been already made by those who have gone to the American agencies. Then, in addition to the hostile Sioux, there are covering our frontier from Assiniboine to Buford, thousands of American Indians who, though agency Indians, roam about the country seemingly without restraint, and are altogether unreliable. Therefore, for the present, at least, if a force is to be maintained here at all it should be a strong one.

THE FORT.]

The building at present dignified by the name of "Fort," affords neither proper accommodation, comfort or defence. If, therefore, a "force" is to be kept here, new buildings will have to be erected. In doing so the fort should be built to accommodate, if necessary, more than fifty men and horses. Owing to the scarcity of building timber and firewood in this immediate vicinity, it might be necessary to change the present site. A place known as the "Willow Bunch," some thirty miles east of this, seems, in many respects, a desirable location for a post.

BUILDING AND FATIGUES.

During the entire autumn we have been busy building and repairing in order to make the old buildings here habitable. The old house formerly used as a Quartermaster store has been torn down and a good building for the kind erected, a large corral has been built for the hay and two others for the cattle. All the buildings inside and out have been mudded (a substitute for plaster) and floors laid in the stables. We also laid up for winter use two hundred cords of wood. All this work was done by the men of the detachment, which, together with all other police duty, has kept us very busy.

HERDING CATTLE.

Another year I hope the supply of meat will be procured by requisition on the contractor as required. At present we herd our own cattle, an arrangement which is most inconvenient and unsatisfactory. No less than a non-commissioned officer and three men have been required to herd them, and even then they stampeded twice. Being so near the lines and among so many hungry Indians it was only by the greatest good luck we recovered them.

CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE.

I could not wish for a more willing, orderly and obedient body of men than those under my command. Although their life is such that they are completely deprived of the pleasures and amusements to which civilized beings are ordinarily accustomed, their conduct would be exemplary anywhere.

PRESENT STRENGTH.

The strength of the detachment here is two officers and twenty-eight non-commissioned officers and men and twenty-six horses.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

L. N. F. CROZIER,

Supt. Commanding.

The Commissioner,
North-West Mounted Police,
Fort Walsh.

Forwarded.

A. G. IRVINE,
Commissioner.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT L. N. F. CROZIER.

WOOD MOUNTAIN, 31st Dec., 1880.

SIR,—That my report should reach you by the time requested I was obliged to forward it to headquarters on the 15th of December.

In order to complete the year I have now the honor to inform you that I sent Inspector Macdonell and a detachment to the Sioux camp on the 16th ult. to get from the Indians a band of thirty-three horses belonging to the half-breeds of the settlement at the "Six Mile Coulee."

The Sioux had refused to give up the horses to the owners themselves, and the matter was then placed in my hands, when I took the above action.

The horses were at once given up. At the same time the Indians said they would have delivered the horses to none others but the "red coats."

Since your departure I have built an addition to the fort in a house 20 x 20 on the south-east corner of the fort, which will answer the double purpose of a barrack room and a bastion. This I was impelled to do on account of the overcrowded state of the rooms, and because of additional men daily expected from headquarters.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

L. N. F. CROZIER,

Supt. Commanding Post.

The Commissioner,
North-West Mounted Police,
Fort Walsh, Cypress Hills.

Forwarded.

A. G. IRVINE,
Commissioner.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT JAMES WALKER.

OTTAWA, 15th December, 1880.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose you the following report respecting the force under my command during the present year.

3—3½**

At the beginning of the year my command was stationed at Battleford, Prince Albert and Duck Lake, with headquarters at Battleford.

There were large numbers of Indians in the vicinity of these posts during the fore part of the year; those at Battleford were principally Crees and Assiniboines, and have their reserves in that neighborhood, but, owing to the scarcity of game, they were unable to obtain sufficient food and came frequently around the post for assistance which was given them by the Indian Agent. At Prince Albert and Duck Lake, in addition to the Crees that have their reserves in that vicinity, there were about 110 lodges of Sioux. About 20 lodges of these were said to be from Sitting Bull's band. It was thought at one time that the presence of so many Sioux would lead to trouble with the settlers, but I am happy to be able to state that these fears were not realized, as these Indians made themselves generally useful in the settlement by cutting wood for the mills and steamboat and doing any work they could get from the settlers. It is also a matter of congratulation that although these and the other Indians in that district were often in want, that not a single case of a breach of the peace was reported against them at any of the posts under my command. The American Sioux returned south, as soon as spring opened, and those under White Cap returned to their reserve near Moose Wood, on the South Saskatchewan.

The conduct of the members of the force under my command has been very good, and breaches of discipline which occurred were of a trivial nature.

The wood required for the different stations under my command was supplied by members of the force for which they received 50 cents per cord in addition to their pay. At Battleford they also cut and delivered, during the winter, sufficient rails to fence thirty acres and ploughed fifty acres in the spring, which was sown with oats, they also ploughed about one acre of potatoes and other vegetables; these crops were all looking exceedingly well when I handed over the command of that post in August last.

I was granted leave to proceed to Ontario the beginning of April last, and left Inspector French in charge. I returned to duty again in the beginning of July and resumed command of the Battleford district. On the 24th of July, at the request of the Indian Commissioner, I proceeded to Fort Pitt to pay the annuities to the Indians in that locality. I arrived at Fort Pitt on the 26th and was engaged with the payments for four days. I found the Indians well disposed and becoming quite interested in their new modes of living as tillers of the soil. After finishing these payments I returned to Battleford to await the arrival of Superintendent Herchmer, who was to relieve me at Battleford. This officer arrived on the 4th of August, when I proceeded to hand over the command to him.

I left Battleford for Fort Walsh on the 21st of August, going by way of Edmonton and Fort Macleod, with the Indian Commissioner, who had requested me to accompany him owing to his having to carry a large sum of money for the payment of Indian annuities; I arrived at Fort Walsh on the 29th September, and was about taking over command of "E" Division, when I was ordered to proceed to the Missouri River on duty. I left Fort Walsh on the 5th of October, and on my arrival at the Missouri I received orders to go on to Ottawa, which I did, arriving in Ottawa on the 2nd of November.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES WALKER,

Superintendent, "E" Div., N.W.M.P.

The Commissioner,
North-West Mounted Police.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT W. M. HERCHMER.

BATTLEFORD, N.W.T., 30th November, 1880.

The Commissioner
North-West Mounted Police,
Fort Walsh, N.W.T.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward, for your information, my report for the past eleven (11) months.

Early in March, Inspector Antrobus arrived at Shoal Lake, I having met him at Winnipeg; by instructions received he was to proceed to Qu'Appelle with reinforcements from Shoal lake, as soon as possible. Owing to the extraordinary depth of snow, I was unable to carry out these instructions until the end of April, when Inspector Antrobus and four men proceeded to Qu'Appelle and relieved Inspector Griesbach, who took charge at Swan River.

In May, I accompanied the Royal Commission to Qu'Appelle and back to Rapid City, at the same time transporting the money for the annuity payments in the Northern District; this money was taken on from Qu'Appelle by Inspector Antrobus to Carlton, and reached there before the time appointed.

On the 30th June, pursuant to instructions, I met the steamboat at Fort Ellice, and there took charge of money for annuity payments in the Southern District, and immediately despatched it with an escort to Qu'Appelle. On this trip, a horse died. From Qu'Appelle the money was immediately sent on to Fort Walsh by Inspector Antrobus.

Early in July I received, per Inspector Steele, orders to hand over the Qu'Appelle District to "B" Division, and to proceed to Battleford with my division to take command of the Saskatchewan District, which comprises Battleford, Fort Saskatchewan, Prince Albert, and Duck Lake. This order was carried out, and, as soon as possible, I marched out with the headquarters of my division, consisting of the surgeon and five men, and proceeded *via* Qu'Appelle, where I picked up the balance of my men and horses under Inspector Antrobus.

On arriving at Duck Lake, I was informed by Mr. Hughes, a Justice of the Peace, that the Indians had shot three cattle belonging to the Indian Department. Information was immediately taken and warrants issued against the three chiefs who appeared to have been the instigators. As to their arrest, which was successful, I refer you to my report already sent in.

I left my division at Duck Lake and took the prisoners, four in number, to Prince Albert, where they were to be tried. Finding only a sergeant at that place, I left a detachment of five constables with him and returned to Duck Lake, and started on for Battleford, which place we reached on the 5th August, having made the trip from Shoal Lake in thirteen days' travel, and took over the command from Superintendent Walker. I immediately set to work, in pursuance with instructions, to make the buildings habitable, they being in a very dilapidated state, and unfit for men or horses to occupy.

A few days after, I proceeded to Prince Albert, to meet H. Richardson, Esq., Stipendiary Magistrate, and to be present at the trial of Indian prisoners.

In September, I went to Fort Saskatchewan, inspected that station, and returned *via* Frog Lake, where I arrested two Indians for having assaulted Indian Farm Instructor Delaney. I tried them at Fort Pitt, sentenced them, and brought them on to Battleford. This case I have also reported on. At the same time I brought down the prisoners from Edmonton sentenced to the penitentiary, and sent them on to Duck Lake, from which place they were taken on to Qu'Appelle and handed over to "B" Division.

In October, I proceeded to Prince Albert with H. Richardson, Esq., to attend Court; I inspected the detachment, and found all correct.

For liquor, prairie fire, and other cases, see annexed schedule.

The health of my command has been uniformly good, as will be seen by the surgeon's report.

Two horses (including the one while on Indian service) have died on the road from scouring, a very severe form of which was prevalent this season. Three have died at this station; two from urine fever, and one from heart disease; they were in good condition, and died suddenly. I have received five remounts.

Discipline has been good, I having had only a few trivial cases to dispose of. Eight (8) men have been discharged on expiration of service, and three (3) under Order in Council. I have received two (2) recruits. We are short of men and I consider there is work here for forty. The men have all gone through a course of foot and mounted drill, under Inspector Antrobus and Sergeant-Major Belcher, and both men and horses have done well.

The stores have arrived in good time, and are of excellent quality, with the exception of the flour, but no better could have been obtained, unless imported, as the wheat crop was a partial failure, owing to summer and fall rains.

I found about fifty (50) acres in oats here; it has turned out well; from the quantity so far threshed I should judge the yield will be about thirty (30) bushels to the acre. This would have been better, but a quantity was destroyed by wild cattle continually breaking in, although the fence was a good one of its sort, being made of strong rails and every care was taken to keep it up. If farming operations are continued I would suggest that wire fencing be used, that being the only kind that will effectually stop cattle. Owing to press of work, and being short-handed, I was obliged to contract for the harvesting of the grain.

A great deal of work has been done here, the barracks and stables have been overhauled, improvements and alterations made, and now they are very convenient and comfortable. The stockade has been erected; this was a difficult matter, as, owing to more pressing work and being short-handed, it was left till the last and then the ground was frozen hard. There were not sufficient pickets, so long fence rails had to be used to fill up; the number required can be procured this winter. I would suggest that I be authorized to erect bastions at the corners. I must draw your attention to the cheerful and willing manner in which the work has been performed. I would also suggest that all the buildings be plastered outside; they are built of cottonwood, which is very susceptible to weather, and are already showing signs of decay, lath and plaster would form an air chamber, prevent rot and save the buildings for a number of years; they would be much more easily heated, and so save fuel, which is becoming difficult to get and therefore expensive. This year we have been obliged to go nine (9) miles for fuel. I would recommend that coal be used in part next season, it could be landed here from Fort Saskatchewan at about ten dollars (\$10) per ton for the first year, and would become cheaper as the trade developed. If this scheme is accepted a few coal stoves would be required.

A guard room and hospital are urgently required; they could be erected by ourselves at a small expense, there being logs available. Two of the buildings, unavoidably left outside the stockade, should be moved in; this could also be done at little expense. There is good barrack accommodation here for forty men, and excellent stabling for the same number of horses.

I have transferred to the Indian Department horses and oxen as follows:

At Shoal Lake, 2 horses and 2 colts.

Battleford, 2 horses and 1 ox.

Fort Saskatchewan, 1 horse and 2 colts.

Prince Albert, 3 horses.

Making a total of eight (8) horses, four (4) colts and one (1) ox. I have also cast and sold at Fort Saskatchewan two (2) horses, one (1) cow and two (2) oxen.

At Fort Saskatchewan there exists a great necessity for a proper barrack and guard room; these could be erected cheaply, as material is easily got at there and at reasonable prices. There is no proper store accommodation, and the room at present occupied by the men is just suited for that purpose. The guard room is too small, too low, and very unhealthy; it is only a makeshift, being under the same roof as the kitchen—the said roof being useless. There have been several prisoners confined there for long periods, on serious charges, some being from the Peace River.

In my opinion the detachment at Fort Saskatchewan is too small, it should be kept up to the strength intended.

At Prince Albert I found that the quarters occupied by our men were totally unsuited to our requirements, several families occupying the same building, which was horribly cold, and the stabling miserable. I succeeded in renting desirable premises, thoroughly convenient as to situation and accommodation for men, horses and stores, and easily heated. I moved the detachment in. I also removed the detachment from Duck Lake to Prince Albert, for the reason that the quarters occupied were required by the owners, and no other building was attainable; also because the reason for which the detachment was sent there no longer existed, as the Indians of that neighborhood are showing their desire to be peaceable,—this change is owing to the lesson taught them last summer. I have instructed the sergeant in charge at Prince Albert to visit Duck Lake at stated intervals, and to be ready to attend to any call from there. As the contract awarded did not include Prince Albert, I arranged, on satisfactory terms, with Messrs. Stobart, Eden & Co., for the supply of provisions and forage to be delivered from time to time as required. At present there is an Indian prisoner in our charge at Prince Albert, sent in from Fort Simpson, in Athabaska, for the murder of his wife. He was committed for trial there, but, as the witnesses were not sent in, he cannot be tried before next summer.

In the execution of duty I have travelled over 4,000 miles, and Inspector Antrobus, 2,000.

Enclosed find a return showing the distribution of men and horses of my division, and also a schedule comprising magisterial and police duties performed. We have two warrants on hand for service.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. M. HERCHMER,

Superintendent.

Forwarded,

A. G. IRVINE,
Commissioner.

CRIMINAL and other Cases dealt with by "D" Division, for the eleven months ended 30th November, 1880.

Date of Arrest or Summons	Name of Prosecutor.	Name of Defendant.	Nature of Charge.	Date of Conviction or Disposal.	Penalty.	Remarks.	Where Disposed of.	Name of Magistrate.
1880.								
Jan. 5	Wm. Geekie.....	G. Jackson.....	Misconduct as a servant	Jan. 7	Discharged from service and pay costs.	Arrested at Riding Mountain.	Shoal Lake....	Supt. Herchmer.
do 29	Black Bird (Indian)...	A. Morrisette....	Putting out poison.....	do 29	Case dismissed.....	Not sufficient evidence.	Fort Ellice....	do
Mar. 21	Regina.....	Frank Miller.....	Liquor in possession.....	Mar. 22	Admonished; Hq- uor seized and spilt.	First offence.....	Shoal Lake....	do
Apl. 2	J. Easkott.....	M. Thompson.....	Assault and threatening life.	May 3	Fined \$20 or two months' imprisonment.	Committed for trial by Supt. Herchmer.	do	H. Richardson, Esq.
do 7	Regina	Paskada.....	Administering poison...	do 7	Acquitted by jury.	do	Fort Ellice....	do
do 12	Corp. H. Nash.....	B. G. Bartram....	Liquor in possession	Apl. 12	Admonished and liquor spilt.	First offence.....	Shoal Lake....	Supt. Herchmer.
do 15	Const. J. Carruthers	J. Fanner.	do	do 15	Fined \$200 or six months' imprisonment.	Long suspected, but had hitherto escaped.	Odanah.....	do
May 3	Regina	K. McLeod.....	Larceny.....	May 5	Two months' imprisonment, H. L.	.....	Shoal Lake....	H. Richardson, Esq.
Apl. 29	do	J. Creighton....	Horse stealing.....	do 5	Acquitted by jury.	Arrested at Rapid City.	do	do
May 19	A. H. Scouten.....	F. Miller.....	Assault.....	do 20	Fined \$20 or two months' imprisonment.	.....	do	Supt. Herchmer,
June 17	J. Doran, sen.	J. Doran, jun....	Assault with intent to kill.	.....	Committed for trial, prisoner committed suicide, on bail.	Arrested at Brandon Hills	Rapid City....	Supt. Herchmer and R. McIntosh, Esqs.
do 19	Const. J. Carruthers	C. J. Wheelam...	Keeping a billiard table without license.	June 21	Fined \$20 and costs	.....	do	Supt. Herchmer.
do 19	do	E. M. Low	Selling liquor.....	do 21	Fined \$200 & costs or six months' imprisonment.	Arrested at Grand Valley.	do	do
do 24	Const. W. Grant	F. H. Francis....	Liquor in possession.....	do 26	Fined \$50 and costs	.....	Shoal Lake....	do

July	27	Regina	Beardy	Shooting Govt. cattle	Aug. 12	Acquitted by jury.	Committed for trial at Duck Lake by Supt. Herchmer and O. E. Hughes, Esq.	Prince Albert.	H. Richardson, Esq., C. Young, Esq., O. E. Hughes, Esq.
do	27	do	One Arrow	do	do	do	do	do	do
do	27	do	Cut Nose	do	do	do	do	do	do
do	27	do	Omenakaw	do	do	do	do	do	do
do	28	Const. L. D. Geldert	H. Cunningham	Leaving fire	July 29	Found guilty, ordered to pay for cattle.		Prince Albert.	Supt. Herchmer.
do	28	Const. L. D. Geldert	H. Cunningham	Leaving fire	July 29	Fined \$25 and costs or one month's imprisonment.		Prince Albert.	Supt. Herchmer.
Aug.	2	Insp. W. Antrobus	P. Falcon	Setting fire to prairie	Aug. 2	Fined \$50 and costs or two months' imprisonment.		Bend of Saskatchewan River.	do
do	10	Regina	Neponogemale	Shooting Govt. cattle	do 10	Judgment deferred, decision left to Indian Commissioner, Indians offering to pay for cattle.		Duck Lake	H. Richardson, Esq.
do	10	do	Wa-ka-ok-kaw	do	do 10	do		do	do
do	10	do	Jonas Cass	do	do 10	do		do	do
do	10	do	Ko-a-ne-to	do	do 10	do		do	do
do	10	do	O-ma-ke-en	do	do 10	do		do	do
do	11	Supt. W. M. Herchmer	A. Cameron	Obstructing highway	do 12	Ordered to remove obstruction.		Prince Albert.	do
July	2	Regina	Little Knife	Lunatic	do 10	Released	Not proven	Duck Lake	do
do	3	do	A. Fortier	House breaking	do 10	Fined \$20 and costs	Only guilty of trespass.	do	do
Aug.	15	do	J. Carey	Larceny	Sept. 14	Acquitted	Arrested on Peace River.	Fort Saskatchewan.	do
Oct.	14	do	J. Gouin	do	do 11	One month's imprisonment.	Arrested on Smoky River.	do	do
Sept.	21	J. Delancy	Wm. Gladue	Assault	do 22	Two do	Arrested at Fort Pitt.	Fort Pitt	Supt. Herchmer.
do	21	do	J. Yale-pu-ooocan.	do	do 22	do	Arrested at Fishing Lake.	do	do
do	2	Regina	Michael	Murder	do	do	Arrested at Fort Simpson in Arthabasca and committed for trial.	Prince Albert.	Awaiting trial; witnesses have to be sent for.
do	28	Const. C. McKintosh	E. Richard	Leaving fire	Oct. 11	Fined \$2.		Battleford	H. Richardson, Esq.
Nov.	9	Const. Newhort	Wm. Turner	Assault	Nov. 11	Sentence deferred.		do	do
do	10	Supt. Herchmer	G. Marchand	Liquor in possession	do 12	Acquitted		do	do
Mar.	6	Sergt. W. Parker	J. Cunningham	do	Mar. 6	Fined \$50 and costs		Qu'Appelle	W. J. McLean, Esq.

Forwarded,
A. G. IRVINE,
Commander.

Certified Correct.

W. M. HERCHMER, Supt.,
Commanding "D" Division, N.-W. M. P.

[PART II]

NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE.

RETURN showing Distribution of "D" Division; Men and Horses.

Place.	Officers.			Staff Sergeants.		Sergeants.	Constables.	Horses.	Remarks.
	Superintendents.	Inspectors.	Surgeon.	Sergt.-Major	Hospital Sergeant.				
Battleford.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	20	32	
Fort Saskatchewan.....		1			1	1	7	12	
Prince Albert.....						1	7	11	
Totals.	1	2	1	1	2	3	34	55	

W. M. HERCHMER,
Superintendent Commanding.

REPORT OF INSPECTOR S. B. STEELE.

QU'APPELLE, November 3, 1880.

To the Commissioner,
North-West Mounted Police,
Fort Walsh.

SIR,—In accordance with instructions I have the honor to report as follows:—

On the 21st of July last, I took over command of this division from Superintendent Walsh, who proceeded to Ontario on leave of absence.

The Indian payments in this treaty (No. 4) commenced early in July, and non-commissioned officers and men of this command took part in them as follows:—

Sergeant-Major Bradley and two constables escorted treaty money to Fort Walsh, for payment there; Corporal Bliss and five constables escorted the sub-agent with money, to the payments at Fort Ellice, and assisted him at that place; Constables McCormack and Ross assisted Inspector Antrobus in paying the Indians at the Touchwood Hills. Constable McCormack paid a band of Indians at this place, during the absence of the agent at other points, and during the regular payments at this place, two constables were placed under the orders of the agent each day.

Lieut.-Colonel MacDonald, the Indian agent here, informed me that the above duties were carried out to his entire satisfaction.

On the arrival of the division at this post there was not accommodation enough for the number of men to be stationed here, consequently I received instructions to erect quarters and temporary stabling. Work was commenced on the buildings on the 1st of last August and was finished in November.

The buildings consist of one barrack room, 60 x 25, guard room, cells, carpenters and shoeing-smith's shops; the four last mentioned are under one roof. These structures are of a substantial nature, well thatched and whitewashed.

The temporary stable which was erected is 125 x 30, and is built of heavy posts and rails, placed in two rows, and stuffed between, and covered with hay; swinging bales, suitable racks and mangers are provided.

All the lumber required for the barracks was hauled from Swan River barracks, a distance of 128 miles, and the logs were provided at least seven miles from this post. All the work, with the exception of the thatching and chimney building, was performed by our own men. They did it with the greatest cheerfulness, the non-commissioned officers driving teams and working in the woods the same as the constables. The transport of the lumber from Swan River entailed a great deal of hard work, there being two large rapid and unfordable streams on the route, and the road being almost impassable from water, the result of the large quantity of snow which fell last winter and rain which fell during the early part of the summer.

This division is now distributed as follows: 1 officer, 38 non-commissioned officers and constables at Qu'Appelle; 1 non-commissioned officer and 3 constables at Shoal Lake; 1 officer and 3 constables at Swan River barracks; and 1 officer on leave

I had no authority to post more than two constables at Swan River barracks, but I found it necessary to increase the number to three for the coming winter, lest in the event of any duty requiring two men having to be performed, the officer would, in the case of fire or any other emergency, be left without any one to assist him.

The post at Shoal Lake is not, in my opinion, situated at the best point to prevent the smuggling of liquors into the Territory. There is a large tract of settled country along the Little Saskatchewan, the inhabitants of which can bring in liquor at pleasure, and others who wish to avoid Shoal Lake post by crossing at the rapids, a point on the Assiniboine river, and take the south trail for the west. The horses in this division have done a good deal of hard work this summer, and have stood it very well; the bronchos have stood the work rather better than Canadian horses, especially when they were compelled to do without their usual allowance of oats. Several of the horses have become unserviceable through age, not being able to stand the rapid travelling which at times is necessary in this country.

There is now a good supply of waggons on hand here and they are in fair order. In travelling through very bad roads the broad-tired waggons were far easier on horseflesh, as they are not so liable to cut down. The broad-gauge waggons, two of which are here, are not fit for travelling on the old cart trails of this part of the territory, the tires are too narrow, and horses cannot travel on the trail, owing to the wideness of the gauge.

The only serviceable saddles in the division are a few of the Californian pattern. In this division the Californian saddle has been used very much, and is the favorite with all; it has been found to be the most durable, the easiest on horseflesh, and the most comfortable riding saddle, especially during the winter, that we have ever had. In the event of the division having its present number of Californian saddles increased to that required for the whole strength, I beg to recommend that some other way of carrying the carbine than the present one, across the horn of the saddle, be adopted.

All the Indians in this section are now on their reserves and preparing for a start at farming next spring. The presence of a troop of police has materially assisted in bringing about this desirable state of affairs. The supplies for this post and Swan River for the year 1880-81 were, with the exception of fuel for this post, and hay and fuel for Swan River barracks, supplied by Messrs. Baker & Co.; they are of good quality.

The supplies for Shoal Lake were obtained from Messrs. Mowat & Saffray.

The fuel for this post is cut and piled in the woods at the rate of 75 cents per cord, and our own men haul it to barracks. That for Swan River is supplied by Const. McDermott, and that for Shoal Lake by contract.

The conduct of the non-commissioned officers and men of this division has been exemplary, every duty which they have been called upon to perform they have done creditably. I cannot speak too highly in their praise.

I annex a list of persons who have been confined in the guard room and been in the custody of the division since I took over command in July last.

Name.	Crime.	Date of Arrest.	Date of Com- mittal.	Date of Convic- tion.	Sentenced.	By whom Awarded.	Remarks.
		1880.	1880.	1880.			
Little Fisher...	Horse stealing.	July 28	.....	.....	.....	.....	Transfer to Fort
Hugh Ross.....	Larceny.....	Sept. 17	.....	Sept. 18	Pay costs.....	W. J. McLean,	Walsh.
James Dugan..	Giving liquor..	do 16	.....	.....	Dismissed...	J. P.	
Francis Bacon.	Misdemeanor..	Aug. 6	Aug. 8	.....	.....	do	In Guard Room.
Edw. Jerome..	do ..	do 6	do 7	.....	.....	.....	do
John Linklater	Horse stealing.	Nov. 1	.....	.....	.....	.....	Still in G. Room —to be sent to Prince Albert for trial.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

S. B. STEELE,

Inspector Commanding Post.

Forwarded,

A. G. IRVINE,
Commissioner.

REPORT OF SURGEON GEORGE A. KENNEDY.

FORT WALSH, N.W.T., 23rd December, 1880.

SIR,—I have the honor to present you with the following medical report of Fort Walsh for the year 1880:—

The general health of the force at this post during the year has not been good. The average number on the sick list has been twelve, which would make the average sickness about eight per cent. This is a large proportion, when it is considered that the force is supposed to contain none but picked men in the early prime of vigor and manhood. During the winter and spring months, affections of the throat and chest are very common, in the summer diseases of the digestive organs came into prominence, and in autumn, malarial influences are at work undermining constitutions and disseminating disease. The causes of this unsatisfactory state of affairs are not far to seek, and will be alluded to in the latter part of this report.

The health of the force, though by no means good, presents a favorable contrast in some respects to 1879 and preceding years. Thus, not one case of *mountain fever* is shown in the hospital records. This is all the more remarkable, as at Fort Assiniboine, where all the conditions are more unfavorable to the development of the disease, they had six cases, and at other points south of the line it was very prevalent.

As the subject has been, and always will be, a matter of importance to Fort Walsh, I consider that it will not be time or space thrown away if I take this opportunity of recording, in the fewest possible words, my experience of the disease.

In the first place, then, I regard the fever as essentially *malarial*, varied in its course and symptoms by the altitude and local surroundings. As for the causes I have nothing to add to what Surgeon Kittson said on the subject in his last report, except that I would admit the air as an important factor. Considerable discussion has recently taken place as to whether it has any connection with typhoid fever. In the cases which I have seen, all the prominent symptoms of typhoid are absent—there was no abdominal tenderness, no inflammation of *pyrus glands*, and no *exanthem*—and except that it left the patient very weak and emaciated, I saw no resemblance between the diseases. It is true that in extreme cases the *typhoid condition* sets in, but this is common to the majority of low fevers, and is essentially different from typhoid fever. It is equally true that typhoid may co-exist with what is known as mountain fever, but I am speaking of the latter, pure and simple.

Again, I think I may safely say, that if taken in time, it can always be abated by large doses of quinine. I have had, during the season, a large number of cases, both in the force and among the half-breeds, which were shown as intermittent fever or cold. These presented themselves with all the initiatory symptoms of mountain fever, and were invariably discharged in a few days—cured by quinine. By reference to the appendix, it will be seen that only five cases of intermittent fever are recorded. This, however, does not show the extent of the malarial influence, as many cases were recorded as colds, the first symptoms of mountain fever being those of a heavy cold, and it being difficult to distinguish the two except by the treatment. That these cases mostly were malarial, is proven by the fact that they could not be cured until quinine had first been administered.

The reasons why Fort Walsh enjoyed an immunity from this fever, I regard as threefold.

First—Great attention to sanitation undertaken at the commencement of spring, and continued until the cold weather set in. All the measures recommended by Surgeon Kittson were thoroughly and conscientiously carried out. As soon as the snow was off the ground the fort was thoroughly cleaned, the civilians were visited and compelled to remove and burn all refuse matter and offal which had collected around their premises, and all Indians in the vicinity were made to move to some distance below the fort. Then, as the season became more advanced, the force was moved out under canvas, and the free pure air, the good spring water and the outdoor life kept the fever off. While the men were under canvas, the hut rooms were thoroughly cleaned, fumigated and whitewashed. The floors were all taken up, and, after the ground had been allowed to dry, laid down again on a higher foundation. The stables were similarly treated, and better drainage secured. In fact, nothing was left undone which might in any way be instrumental in warding off the disease.

Second—The experience of former years. Everyone knew and dreaded the disease, and as soon as they noticed the first symptoms, came at once under medical treatment. The disease was thus always easily avoided.

Third—The nature of the season; and this I consider the most important of the three. Very little rain fell in the usual rainy season, May and June. Then followed a very cool summer, with a heavy rainfall in August and September. Thus all the conditions favorable to the development of the *prentias microcosms* which are so dangerous and so fatal, were absent. With a heavy rainfall in May and June, and a hot summer following, it is to be feared that the ravages of mountain fever would be extensive.

I think a careful reflection on the foregoing facts will force us irresistibly to the conclusion that Fort Walsh is not a healthy place. The past has been a healthy year, and still eight per cent. of a body of picked men have been sick all the time. In the village, containing a population of perhaps a hundred, there have been nine deaths, a proportion of ninety to the thousand. The ratio in the towns and villages of Ontario is about fifteen, a striking contrast. In this connection I would try to draw your attention to my letter of 29th December, 1879, giving reasons why I do not consider the situation of Fort Walsh a healthy one.

However, the experience of the past year or two has shown us how much can be done by attention to sanitary and hygienic measures. By repeating every season what has been done this year, and by instituting a few reforms to which I propose to call your attention, it is to be hoped that the health of the force will be maintained in a moderately good state, and that we will be spared the necessity of chronicling any serious calamity.

I have mentioned that the force was under canvas for some time during the summer. We moved from the Fort in August and returned in October. The camp was situated some two miles from the Fort, on the bank of a running stream, and close by a spring of good clear water. The surface of the ground presented a gentle inclination, the soil was light and dry, and all the indications were apparently favorable to a good state of health. But the weather proved to be very disagreeable. During the whole time we were under canvas rain fell almost every other day, and at intervals snow varied the monotony. The tents were most of them old and of the poorest description, affording but little protection from a heavy rain, which would penetrate the canvas as through a sieve. As a consequence, colds, coughs, rheumatism and affections of the throat were common on the sick list. Notwithstanding all this, the general health was above the average, and I believe the camping out, on the whole, had a most desirable effect.

I should recommend that it be repeated every year at Fort Walsh, but I should also recommend that proper tents be supplied. The bell tents, as at present used, seem to me the best for ordinary purposes, but considerable improvement might be effected in the quality of the canvas and the arrangements for ventilation. With their full complement of men, the pockets at the side and top are not sufficient for this latter purpose, and this is particularly the case in rainy weather.

It has fallen to my lot during the past year to examine upwards of one hundred recruits, and I am glad to say that the large majority of them were splendid specimens of Canadian manhood. But improvement can generally be effected, and I see the necessity for improvement in the following respect: twenty-five of this hundred are boys in age, and many of them in development. Now, the nature of the service in this country is such that only a fully developed man can perform it. For instance, a severe winter trip across the plains (a matter of almost daily occurrence) is enough to test the stamina and endurance of a strong vigorous man. A boy, who has not yet ceased to grow, and whose system has not fully arrived at maturity, might very readily break down and be ruined in health for the remainder of his life. I would, therefore, suggest that in future, unless under exceptional circumstances, twenty-one be the minimum age of recruits. Last year I had to recommend for invalidation four of the recruits of 1879; and at least one of them should never have been enlisted. I think that too much care cannot be exercised in the medical examination of applicants for admission into the force.

The past year has been marked in a manner which will cause it to be remembered with sorrow by every one who has ever been connected with the force. I allude to the death of Captain Clark. The only one of the officers whom death has taken from us, his untimely end will mark 1880 as the saddest year in the history of the force. As I have already made a special report, I would not mention this, but it is an event of the year over which I cannot pass.

In the latter part of November, I visited and inspected Wood Mountain post. The quarters for the men are the usual low log huts with mud roofs, which seem to be the only style of buildings in vogue in this part of the territory. As living in them is decidedly unhealthy, they should be replaced by properly-constructed barrack rooms at the earliest opportunity.

The hospital accommodation is practically *nil*, and I would suggest the advisability of erecting a small cottage hospital, capable of containing, say, eight or ten men.

I would now call your attention to a few reforms which I think might be instituted with advantage to the sanitary condition of Fort Walsh.

The guard room, of which Surgeon Kittson spoke so strongly in his last annual report, still stands, and, I think, at the present time there are nine prisoners confined in it, besides a guard of four men. The necessity for some different arrangement is a most urgent one, and is one of the first things which should be attended to.

The huts at present occupied by "E" Troop are not only not conducive to health, but provocative of disease. I have no hesitation in saying that living in these rooms swells the sick list and materially detracts from the efficiency of the force. Built as they are, they have been condemned by all medical authorities. As much as could be done to render them habitable was done last summer, but they have been occupied too long, and should be replaced by better and differently constructed ones. Good barrack rooms, built on common-sense hygienic principles, will be found to be an economy. The health of the men will be better, they will be more cheerful and contented, and will work to better advantage. In this country, and in winter especially, there is absolutely nothing to which men can turn in their leisure moments. The ordinary pleasures and pursuits of civilized life are wanting, and they are thrown entirely on their own resources. They have no place to go but to their rooms, and these present no prospect save that of confinement to an unwholesome atmosphere, with the alternative of an hour or two's reading or a game of cards. I feel strongly on this point, and am certain that if the men were furnished with good, comfortable, properly-ventilated barrack rooms, and a commodious, well-appointed recreation room, not only the health, but the comfort, morale, and general efficiency of the force would be greatly increased.

These remarks apply with equal force to Wood Mountain.

The medical work among the Indians during the year has been large. In the early months, I was frequently called on to treat the Sarcees, Crees and Assiniboines, but nothing of any particular importance occurred.

In September I was ordered to the Head of the Mountain to enquire into the causes of some sickness which had broken out among the Assiniboines. I found a large number of the tribe prostrated, and treated some sixty or seventy cases.

Fifteen hundred Crees camped on the east hill near the Fort. They had not been long settled when an epidemic of diarrhoea and dysentery broke out among them. Almost every individual in camp was affected, and quite a number, principally children, died. As an instance of how common it was, I may mention that I visited and treated one hundred and fifty cases in one day.

Shortly after this, a report was brought me that small-pox had broken out in the camp. I proceeded there at once, and found that the small-pox was a case of scarletina. It was the first of an epidemic which was destined to run through the band. Fortunately, the type was a mild one, with few throat symptoms, and, with ordinary care, not specially dangerous. It was confined principally to the children, although many of the adults were also affected. On the 28th there were some twenty cases; on the 18th October, when I visited the camp at the ten-mile crossing, I found sixty-six cases. All these received medical treatment. Up to this time the number of deaths had been twelve. I think that in all there were perhaps one hundred and fifty or two hundred cases, and that the number of deaths amounted to fifteen or twenty. It is very difficult to obtain correct statistics from Indians.

On the 20th October I visited this camp again on account of another small-pox report having reached here. It is needless to state that it was found to be as false as the first.

October and November were marked by the prevalence of measles on the reserves at the "Head of the Mountain" and "Maple Creek." A few deaths resulted from this visitation.

Since the 1st of July last, I have visited the "Head of the Mountain" four times, and "Maple Creek" twice.

I would now beg leave to make an extract from a report made at the time to the Commissioner of Indian affairs:—

“ On the 24th October, hearing that there were two Indians at the ‘Lake’ who had been shot by the Sioux and brought in by some half-breeds, I proceeded there to investigate the matter and, if necessary, furnish medical aid. I found that these two Indians, a man and a boy, were the remnants of a party who had been fired on by the Sioux just south of the line on or about the 3rd of September. The party had included a woman also, but she had died in consequence of her wounds, exposure and privation. The man had received a ball in the calf of the leg, but as no bones had been broken, and he was doing well, I did not interfere with him. The boy, however, had been shot twice, once in each leg. In one leg, the ball had entered above the knee, passed down alongside of the joint and emerged some three inches below, inflicting in its course comminuted fractures of the *tibia* and *fibula*. His wounds I considered so serious that I brought him to the Fort with me next day. On the 26th the Indian agent procured quarters for him in the village * * * On the 27th I administered chloroform to the patient and made a careful examination of his injuries. I found that his knee joint was diseased, and that all the tissues had been so badly shattered that amputation through the thigh would be necessary. I accordingly performed the operation at once.

I am happy to say that recovery was rapid and complete and that he is now able to move about.

The only other case deserving of mention is that of the imbecile half-breed, Ruben. He had his feet badly frozen in November and received injuries from which he died on December 7th. His death was attributable, I think, to the exposure and shock which his low vitality could not withstand.

It was very difficult to obtain suitable quarters for both the Indian boy and Ruben, and I think that these cases exemplify the necessity which exists for the establishment on the reserves of some place where the sick, wounded, and infirm, can be properly cared for and treated.

Appendix A shows the diseases treated during the year, the number of cases, and average duration of treatment.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. A. KENNEDY, M.B.

Surgeon, N.W.M.P.

LIEUT.-COL. IRVINE,
Commissioner, N.W.M.P., Fort Walsh.

Forwarded,

A. G. IRVINE,
Commissioner.

APPENDIX A.

DISEASES treated at Fort Walsh during the Year 1880.

Class.	Disease.	No. of Cases.	Average Duration.	Remarks.
General Diseases.....	Rheumatism and rheumatic pains.....	32	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Intermittent fever.....	5	14	
Nervous System.....	Neuralgia.....	20	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Lumbago.....	7	5	
	Odontalgia.....	6	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Cephalalgia.....	14	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	
	Gastralgia.....	1	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Invalided.
Respiratory System.....	Coughs and cold.....	105	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Sore throat.....	17	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Catarrh, chronic.....	1	.....	Still under treatment.
	Pleurisy.....	1	27	
Digestive System.....	Diarrhoea.....	36	2	
	Dysentery.....	2	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Indigestion.....	21	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Colic.....	8	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Constipation.....	10	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Hæmorrhoids.....	1	7	
	Gastritis.....	1	.....	Died, 2nd October.
Cutaneous System.....	Pustular Eczema.....	1	18	
	Erysipelas.....	1	10	
	Boils.....	10	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Glandular System.....	Epididymitis.....	5	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Orchitis.....	5	30	
	Swollen glands.....	12	35	
Special Sense.....	Snow blindness.....	4	3	
	Ophthalmia.....	6	6	One now under treatment.
Surgery.....	Minor surgery.....	45	6	
	Sprains.....	27	20	One invalided.
	Frost bites.....	3	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Ulcers.....	1	89	Still under treatment.
	Contusions.....	10	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Fracture.....	1	40	Lower jaw.
	Dislocation.....	2	32	
	Gun shot wound.....	1	83	
		Total number of cases.....	422	

G. A. KENNEDY, M.B.,
Surgeon, N.W.M.P.

 REPORT OF SURGEON ROBERT MILLER.

BATTLEFORD, N.W.T., 23rd November, 1880.

SIR,—Pursuant to instructions I have the honor to report for your information the following:—

On the 18th January I left Shoal Lake for Qu'Appelle, news having arrived of the severe illness of Constable MacDougall; arriving at the latter place on the 21st, I found Constable MacDougall suffering from a severe attack of erysipelas of the face. I remained in attendance one week, the patient being then convalescent.

During the winter the health of the men at Shoal Lake was very good. There were some cases of diarrhoea, and the usual affections incident to severely cold weather—frost-bites, bronchitis and rheumatism.

On the eve of departure from Shoal Lake, in July, with Superintendent Herchmer, I found it necessary to leave Constable Wilson behind, as he was rendered unfit for travel by chronic rheumatism; medicines and instructions were left in competent hands.

Throughout the trip from Shoal Lake to Battleford, the general health of officers and men was excellent.

In conjunction with Hospital-Sergeant Holmes, I made out, at Qu'Appelle, a requisition of medicines and medical comforts for Superintendent Walsh's command. These medicines, etc., have arrived at Qu'Appelle, together with all that was useful in the old Swan River supply.

The new quarters of the detachment at Prince Albert are a great improvement on the old, being warm and comfortable; the general health of the men is excellent.

I accompanied Superintendent Herchmer to Fort Saskatchewan, and find that there is a great lack of medicine and no hospital. In the event of an epidemic, or even one case of severe illness, the barrack sleeping room will be found a very inadequate place for the proper treatment of the patients or patient.

Medicines were to have been sent to Fort Saskatchewan from the south. Hospital-Sergeant Herchmer informs me that none have arrived; my own stock at Battleford is too meagre to admit of my supplying him with but very few.

The guard room at Fort Saskatchewan is badly built and very deficient in ventilation; another larger and better building is much needed.

There have been some cases of rheumatism and quinsy during the early part of the winter, but no man was off duty more than four or five days; one case of erysipelas in an employed man.

At this station also, there is no hospital; there is a dispensary, that is all.

The neighborhood of Battleford is healthy. The water is very hard, causing amongst middle-aged residents a tendency to gravel.

A well inside the barrack square would be a great boon, as either river, North Saskatchewan or Battle River, is over half a mile from barracks.

I have treated a number of cases of sickness amongst the Indians, which will be duly reported to the Indian Commissioner.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Very respectfully yours,

ROBERT MILLER,

Surgeon N.W.M.P.

Lieut.-Colonel IRVINE,
Commissioner North-West Mounted Police,
Fort Walsh, N.W.T.

Forwarded

A. G. IRVINE,
Commissioner.
