

Messrs. Logan and O'Doherty have already erected five buildings, 16 feet by 48 feet.

They have yet to erect four buildings 16 feet by 48 feet, two buildings 16 feet by 24 feet, ten kitchens 12 feet by 16 feet, and two stables. I am in hopes that all will be completed in the course of six weeks.

I do not consider either buildings suitable for a permanent post, though those supplied have answered their purpose wonderfully well.

I would recommend that plans and specifications be immediately prepared and contracts at once let for the erection of buildings at "Medicine Hat" and "Maple Creek," as early as possible in the spring.

It will be impossible for the force to assist in any way in the construction of these posts, owing, as I have already shown, to the amount of duty which will be required of us.

The post at "Medicine Hat," will require to be large enough to accommodate one hundred men and an equal number of horses.

At Maple Creek, large enough for thirty men and an equal number of horses.

I have previously alluded to the importance which attaches to the establishment of these posts.

Their erection is, I am quite satisfied, the only really efficient way in which we shall establish control and perfect supervision of a most important section of country, where much police work will for a long time to come require to be done.

I have already pointed out, in the strongest possible terms, the many and serious objections there are to the site of Fort Walsh as a Police Post.

By the building, in the Spring, of the posts I have recommended at "Medicine Hat" and "Maple Creek," the abandonment of Fort Walsh could be effected in a most satisfactory manner, and I most strongly recommend this being done.

As I have previously reported, our present post at Wood Mountain is unfit to quarter men and horses. I would recommend that a new post be erected there sufficiently large to accommodate one officer, 25 men, and 25 horses.

#### *Saddles.*

In my Report of last year, I called your attention to the necessity of adopting some saddle for the Force, and purchasing a supply at once.

I recommended the English high cantle dragoon saddle with several changes, and asked that a pattern saddle be obtained at once in order to thoroughly test it. I also obtained a Californian saddle of what I consider the best pattern. Both of these saddles were thoroughly used and tested, with the result that I found that the California saddle was the most suitable one for the different uses to which they required to be put, and also that in all cases the men preferred them in long rides.

I am therefore justified in recommending that the Californian, of the following pattern, be adopted for this Force:

The stirrups, wooden, strapped with iron, covered with leather and rubber covered rollers. Horn and cantle of saddle also covered with leather.

The cinchas, open, three bars leathered over and under.

Grey sweat blankets and heavy best felt numnahs.

The saddle supplied with cantanas (wallets) plain, and with slings for Winchester carbines. No leather guard on stirrups.

Leather throughout plain and of the best Californian skirting oiled.

#### *Pincher Creek Farm.*

Finding the results of our farming operations on Pincher Creek, thirty miles west of Fort Macleod, were unsuccessful, and the number of men required to carry on the operations so large, I considered it advisable to recommend the leasing of the farm to responsible persons, who would undertake the charge of all the Police brood mares and other horses which require to be sent out to the farm on account of their health to run at large. I, therefore, acting on your authority, signed a lease