

stationed for the winter in a small house rented from Stobart, Eden & Co., at \$5 per month; a small kitchen was added to the building in November last; the stores are kept over the barrack room. We have also four stalls in Stobart, Eden & Co's. stable for our horses during the winter. Should this post be made permanent, I would also recommend the erection of quarters.

HORSES.

The horses at this station have stood the year's work very well and were generally healthy. The only casualties are, No. 30 had its leg broken on 29th March last, when drawing wood, and had to be shot. A yearling colt also died suddenly on the 9th September, I believe from eating some poisonous herb or grass. I am led to this belief from the fact that for the last three years numbers of horses and cattle belonging to the settlers have died suddenly in the neighborhood of the barracks. These animals had all the symptoms of vegetable poisoning; when the Assistant Commissioner inspected this post in September last, he cast horses Nos. 87 E and 29 D. I would now recommend that horse No. 36 (Rice) be cast; he seems to be thoroughly broken down, no amount of forage will put him in condition. Two colts were raised this season and are doing well. I find that the Broncho horses are not so good for all purposes as the Canadian horses, and would recommend that Canadian horses be sent here when the division is increased.

DISCIPLINE.

I would beg leave to recommend that this division be armed with Winchester carbines at an early date, as I find them a much better shooting arm than the carbine now in use. I would also recommend that sufficient ammunition be forwarded to admit of each man firing at least 60 rounds per annum at target practice, as I find that some of the men are not so well up in this most important part of their drill as could be desired. The strength of my command at present is as follows:—Battleford, two officers and twenty-one non-commissioned officers and men; Prince Albert, four non-commissioned officers and men; and Duck Lake, three non-commissioned officers and men, eleven less than at the beginning of the year. This falling off occurred by time-expired men taking their discharge and three constables being transferred. I would beg leave to recommend most strongly that the strength of my command here be increased at the earliest date possible, to at least a full troop of officers and men, to be stationed in such proportions as may be found necessary from time to time, at Battleford, Duck Lake and Prince Albert; it may also be necessary, next year, to send some men to Fort Pitt. There are troublesome Indians in that locality, and I fear they and the Indian farmers will not get along very amicably for a time. I may state, also, that Fort Pitt is the home of Big Bear, who I look upon as one of the most troublesome Cree Indians we have in the territories. I would recommend that an Inspector be placed in charge of Duck Lake and Prince Albert; the other Inspector could be put in charge here, which would leave the officer commanding free to superintend the district and travel about wherever his presence was most required. I do not anticipate trouble with the Indians, but recommend the increase and distribution to give confidence to the settlement and encourage immigration to this part of the territories. The very name of Sioux strikes terror into the hearts of many of the settlers. I have also to report that when the large bands of Indians were here, last spring, they were continually in and about the barracks. Sometimes as many as a hundred at a time were wandering about the buildings, smoking in the vicinity of the stables and hay-yard, to the great risk of the whole quarters; and as we had no stockade to keep them out, we had to keep a constant watch on them. Taking this into consideration, and also the many alarming rumors we were receiving daily of Indian troubles, I considered it advisable, for the protection of the buildings and stores, to proceed at once with the building of a stockade. Mr. Dickinson, the Indian Agent, got the Indians to cut most of the pickets. We were only able to build about one-fifth of the stockade, but I hope to complete it this winter.