

Boyd & Crowe, informed me he was going to build some more barges and take freight from Swift Current or Rush Lake to Prince Albert. I agreed with him to save any of the supplies he could find and deliver them to the Government officers at Prince Albert, for which he was to receive at the rate of \$1 per hundred lbs.

Your telegram of 19th June, from Fort Pitt, which was delayed in transit, instructing me to dismiss all staff, was immediately acted upon, and on 24th I reported all civilians but one had been discharged, and that I was temporarily carrying on all the duties with assistance obtained from the troops; and, in reference to our instructions to have all Government horses and other goods taken to Winnipeg and handed over to the Storekeeper, I consulted with the Government auctioneer as to the locality where the Government horses and other property which could not be stored, could be most advantageously disposed of; and he urged that, in consideration of the expense of freight to, and maintenance of horses in, Winnipeg, a larger return would be realized by local sales. So I recommended to you that these articles should be auctioned at same time as the hospital stores, which were to be sold under orders from the Surgeon-General, and this was accordingly carried out.

On 18th June Captain Swinford was reported sick at Qu'Appelle, and wired asking that I would allow Major Rickards to proceed to Qu'Appelle for a few days to assist him. So I gave Major Rickards leave to go and undertook to supervise the duties of his office during his absence, but appointed Lieutenant Dixon to take charge as Supply and Transport Officer in addition to his other duties. Major Rickards, however, never returned for duty, but paid one or two visits and informed me he had so arranged matters with Colonel Whitehead. Hence I did not interfere, as Major Rickards had been a most energetic and useful officer, untiring in his efforts to forward the public service, working at any hour of the night, if I required his service, and setting an example to his assistants and to the fatigue parties sent to handle supplies by putting his own hands to the work to expedite it. But his absence just at a juncture when work was being closed up and information was constantly required, was singularly inconvenient.

The Saskatoon Hospital was established to meet a sudden emergency, at a time when the river was too low to admit of its use to transport the wounded, and appliances and supplies for a standing hospital of every kind were deficient. So the Medical staff took from the settlers whatever was wanted for the use of the sick, and received many other services from them in the shape of baking bread and cooking, use of houses and furniture, milk, eggs, &c.; and during the whole period of our occupancy at Saskatoon issued provisions of all kinds to the settlers, consequently cross accounts had become very complicated. Deputy Surgeon-General Roddick brought this to my notice, and further informed me that he had explained it to you, and that it was your wish I should send an officer to examine and put in order these accounts. I therefore instructed Lieutenant Leonard, who had shown himself clear headed and accurate, to proceed to Saskatoon to undertake this duty, meeting Dr. Roddick there and receiving explanations from him; and as the settlers at Saskatoon were stated to have placed all their property at the disposal of the Medical Officers, to treat them liberally in closing the account. Lieutenant Leonard had not returned when I left Moose Jaw, and I did not receive any detailed accounts from him, which, however, it is possible he furnished to Dr. Roddick. I received from him the simple statement that he had scheduled and balanced the accounts, showing, after all credit to the Government for provisions supplied, a cash balance of \$1,000 due to the settlers. His report, marked D, is attached.

Accounts of all kinds were now presented, and claims for services rendered poured in; and as all pay matters had to be referred to Winnipeg for settlement, and vouchers strictly in accordance with Militia Regulations were required, which it was next to impossible to induce the claimants to furnish, there was considerable delay and dissatisfaction in the settlement of outstanding claims, which, however, I endeavored to close up as far as possible, as, being on the spot, I could more readily obtain and furnish explanations; but, learning from you it was your wish to unite the whole force under your immediate command, and that Lieut.-Col. Bremner could