

I am perfectly well aware of the difficulty which exists of preventing this, but still it is of the utmost importance that Indian Agents give the subject their earnest and constant attention, and that their most strenuous endeavors be used to prevent the Indians from making such a move.

In connection with the murder of the Cree Indian above alluded to, I am of opinion that it was committed by some excitable young "bucks," who felt humiliated at the prospect of returning home without their horses, as they would thus appear in the eyes of their tribe to have accomplished nothing, notwithstanding the strength of their war-party.

I might mention that very recently the Crees have sent presents of tobacco and sugar (peace-offerings) to all the chiefs of the whole of the Blackfoot nation, which, I hope to learn shortly, have been well received.

The following is a recapitulation of cases tried, which aids materially in forming some approximate idea of police work performed.

Recapitulation of criminal and other cases tried before Lieut.-Col. A. G. Irvine, S.M., and other magistrates in the various police districts throughout the Territories during the year 1882, as per Appendix "D":—

Murder.....	3
Rape.....	3
Horse Stealing.....	16
Cattle Stealing.....	1
Perjury.....	1
Larceny.....	42
Killing Cattle.....	1
Injury to Property.....	18
Breaking Gaol.....	2
Illicit Liquor Traffic.....	39
Illegally in Possession of Intoxicating Liquors.....	52
Gambling.....	31
Assault.....	23
Buying Government Farm Produce from Indians.....	1
Contempt of Court.....	1
Lunacy.....	2
Miscellaneous Cases.....	36
Concealing Child-birth.....	1

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This does not include a very large number of purely civil cases, such as actions for debt, etc., etc.

In my Annual Report of last year, I strongly advised the abandonment of Fort Walsh. It must, however, be remembered that when these recommendations were made, it was understood to be the intention of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to continue their railway north of the Cypress Hills, crossing the Saskatchewan near the junction of the Red Deer River. As early in the season as the 26th April last, I informed you that I had had several conversations with Mr. C. E. Perry, Syndicate Engineer in charge of location; from the substance of these conversations I understood that the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway would run in a more southerly course from the Moose Jaw Creek than had previously been anticipated. I was then informed of the likelihood of the line running south of Island Lake, along the foot hills of the Cypress Mountains, and crossing the South Saskatchewan at the Seven Persons Coulee at a point known as "Medicine Hat." The railway has since been so constructed that it takes it within thirty (30) miles of Fort Walsh. In view of the change, I received a letter from Mr. Perry, a copy of which I forwarded you, on the subject of the Syndicate parties receiving protection from the police. I was at the same time informed that large quantities of supplies were to be shipped through Fort