

During the last year there has been a great deal of illness at this post, nothing serious, but slight irritating attacks, caused no doubt by the very uncomfortable buildings.

When the Assistant Commissioner visited this post in April last, I pointed out to him the necessity of new quarters being erected at once, and that the men's health was much endangered by living in the present buildings.

He approved of my recommendations, and I was in hopes that during the summer the erection of a new post would be ordered.

A force of Police at Wood Mountain is indispensable, and to perform the duty of the district as it should be, it will require at least a full troop of 50 men and horses.

Immediately fronting this place are large tribes of uncertain Indians, and through Wood Mountain run the trails from the agencies of these tribes northward to the Qu'Appelle, Prince Albert Mission, and other places of settlement.

The Wood Mountain District is certainly one of the principal barriers by which our new settlers in the north, covering that section of the country eastward to the boundary of Manitoba, are made secure and their stock protected against raiding parties from the south, who, if the trails are left clear, will find an excursion to the settlement of the "Saskatchewan" as profitable, and with less risk than they now experience in their raids to the Yellowstone and other settled southern streams.

I therefore strongly recommend that the force at Wood Mountain be made up to 50 men and horses, and that a post to accommodate, at least, 75 men and horses, be constructed next summer.

3RD OCTOBER.—PRAIRIE FIRE.

A large prairie fire broke out south of this post, extending for a great distance, and it was only after strenuous exertions that the hay stacks in the hay field were saved.

We lost twenty-five tons at the lake, in another direction, as owing to the course the fire took it was impossible to reach it in time to save it.

5TH OCTOBER.—REINFORCEMENT.

The strength of the division at this post was augmented by the arrival of five constables from Fort Walsh.

Inspector Cotton with an escort conducting the Right Reverend Abbott Martin, arrived at this post.

Abbott Martin informed me that he purposed going to the Teton camp to interview the Sioux, and endeavor to get them to return to their reservations in the United States.

I therefore instructed Inspector Cotton to escort Abbott Martin to the Mud House on White Mud River, where he would find the Sioux camp, and remain with him until he had completed his mission and then return with him to this post.

They returned on the 26th inst., and on the 27th inst. I personally escorted the Bishop to Wolf Point.

5TH NOVEMBER.—LOST HORSES.

Constables Ellis and Davis proceeded to follow a Half-breed named Simpson, who had started from here for Qu'Appelle the previous day, taking a horse belonging to an American named Deux Saints.

After encountering severe storms they overtook him at Qu'Appelle, where the officer in command disposed of the case.

12TH NOVEMBER.—CUSTOMS OFFICER YOUNG.

Customs special agent Young arrived here, on a tour of inspection, and on completing that duty returned to Fort Walsh on the 15th inst.