

communication throughout the summer along the line, I have referred to, it will be quite necessary to maintain at least one or two boats and one scow, as ferries, upon each of the rivers above named, as well as on the White Mud and Blind Man rivers, often so swollen as to intercept travel for days and weeks together.

93. As the country fills with population bridges will no doubt be constructed to complete the great arterial communication throughout this Western Land towards the Canada Pacific Railway.

PORT McLEOD.

94. Selected by Assistant Commissioner McLeod, 4000 feet above the sea level and 50 miles from the Kootenay pass, it is well chosen for shelter from the winter winds, for wood and water, and for agriculture, but it is faulty as a military site, being easily assailed by an enemy finding shelter within short range from the wooded banks of Old Man's River, and other ravines close by. I believe, however, the advantages quite outweigh these defects. There is little prospect of the post being attacked by any body.

95. It stands 30 miles North West from Whoop-up or Fort Hamilton, till the arrival of the police the resort of several hundred smugglers, illicit traders, plunderers and outlaws of every kind.

96. It derives its supplies from Helena and Benton in Montana, 400 and 260 miles distant respectively, over open prairie intersected by many mountain streams of delicious water and nearly always fordable.

97. Indians in large numbers frequent the vicinity of this post in winter, to hunt the Buffalo which invariably draw from the plains towards the mountains for the winter months, they evince a most friendly disposition and their intercourse with the party at the post is without constraint.

98. The actual presence of the police here has been sufficient to spread a respect for law and order throughout the country, liquor trading has totally ceased, the wild lawless band at Whoop-up dispersed at their approach. The Indians are confident of protection and security. The country lies with open arms demanding only an industrious population to till its productive and still virgin soil.

99. It has been said, why I know not, unless through the green eye of envy or of prejudice, that this force a complete failure that they have done nothing, are of no use, but a source of great expense to the Dominion. Such remarks have been levelled against this admirable body of men, but such remarks, I believe, may be fairly imputed to persons who are very ignorant of the magnificent spaciousness of the vast North West Territory, and especially of the necessity for protection of the trading posts in the remote regions of the West, where the fur trade is chiefly carried on upon which up till recently, the country alone depended.

100. Take the difference between the trade in furs this year and three years ago. More furs have been brought down this year to the settlement than for the last three years put together. One man alone traded 6000 Buffalo robes.

101. The question will naturally arise why is this? Because before the establishment of the police the traders on either side of the boundary line used ardent spirits and poisonous alcohol to trade with the Indians and half breed hunters.

102. While our traders used to be able to compete with the Americans, after the passing of the liquor prohibitory

and before the establishment of Mounted Police, our traders had no chance at all, as the Americans still continued to barter liquor for furs, until the last year's expedition of the Police westward, and the establishment of Fort McLeod, the Cypress Hills post, and a small party at Qu'Appelle and Wood Mountain along the American frontier, put a stop entirely to their crossing the line to carry on their nefarious trade in liquor.

103. Thus our hunters and traders gained confidence, and they now do a splendid trade in furs for which they thank the services and presence of the Mounted Police.

104. For every thousand robes that formerly were shipped from Bow River and other trading posts down the Missouri River to the American market, I am credibly informed not one hundred are now sent.

105. Our hunters and traders this year have trobled their orders for trading goods, and outfits of the West.

106. A glance at the Custom House returns in Manitoba for May and June would show that the Government have received through that office no less than 30,000 dollars as duty paid on imported goods for the trade in the far West.

107. Those goods come principally from England and it may be said that, were it not for that Western trade, the merchants in the Province of Manitoba would be in a bad way.

108. I am told that more than 600,000 dollars worth of goods went west from Winnipeg last summer before July, this would not have occurred unless the hunters and traders had full confidence in the security of the country, but the presence of the police have given confidence and encouragement all round, and they have therefore imported three times the quantity more than usual. And so, since the abominable liquor traffic has been stopped by the Police, our traders and hunters, with English goods, are doing well, for the Indians prefer English goods to American.

109. For the last few years the North West has depended solely on the fur trade, the depredations of the grass hoppers, a fearful scourge, with which Manitoba was afflicted, having destroyed the growing crops, and therefore to continue that trade with success in competition with the Americans it is only necessary to maintain the police, now so judiciously and usefully posted.

110. The benefit to the Indians from the presence of the Mounted Police is strikingly apparent. Formerly they bartered horses, clothing, buffalo robes, every thing, for the maddening "fire water," the result was drunkenness, equal, murder, and robbery, chaos let loose all among the tribes. What a change has been the immediate result of the power of the law to repress crime.

111. The Indians barter their buffalo robes for blankets, cloth, tea, sugar, flour, etc., etc., the nefarious crime of horse stealing has greatly diminished because now they can buy horses with robes, instead of bartering them for alcohol as formerly to be replaced by battle, murder, and theft. Dealers have this year gone into British Columbia to purchase mountain ponies to trade with Indians. 300 last year paid duty at McLeod where a Custom House post is established, and custom duties collected regularly, large sums in cash and orders amounting to 3,000 dollars, having been collected previous to my arrival there.

CYPRESS HILLS.

112. Cypress Hills.—I regret extremely that time did not admit of my visiting this very interesting and important post, but

having to go 500 miles already out of my way to visit Fort Shaw, and it being advisable to get through the intricate defiles of the Rocky Mountains before the equinox. I reluctantly gave up an inspection of the Cypress Hills post.

113. The country around it, I hear, cannot be surpassed for beauty and fertility, all the requisites for a populous and thriving settlement lie around, and the presence of the police ensures protection.

114. It lies somewhere about 180 miles due east from McLeod, and about 60 miles north of the International boundary.

115. I understand that many, if not all, the families who had settled around Wood Mountain, 200 miles further east, and close to the frontier, had expressed their intention of changing their abode to Cypress Hills.

QU'APPELLE.

116. Qu'Appelle, a small party has recently been sent here from Swan River; their presence is useful on account of the Indians round that country, and probably it will be found a desirable post to maintain permanently.

117. Direct communication between McLeod and Manitoba might be established, if the party at Wood Mountain fell back to a position upon or near Old Woman's Lake, thus making a chain of frontier posts, round some, if not all, of which, settlements would rapidly spring up, would then be fairly complete.

*The efficiency of the officers, constables and sub constables, with whom you may come in contact.*

118. I have touched generally upon the above points in various passages of the foregoing report. I feel it somewhat delicate to enter specifically into the subject, particularly as my rapid journey through the North West, which was of a matter of necessity, did not enable me to spend sufficient time at any one place to gain an intimate knowledge of the character and attainments of individuals which should guide me in arriving at a just estimation.

119. With the two principal Officers, the Commissioner, and Assistant Commissioner, I had much personal intercourse, one marched with me 300, and the other 700 miles.

120. What I have said in my confidential report, has been expressed in all candour, and my long military experience of character gives me confidence in the accuracy of my conclusions.

121. With regard to the divisional Officers I cannot speak so confidently, but I shall place opposite their names my remarks from personal observation, and casual acquaintance as well as from enquiry, in my separate confidential memorandum.

122. Of the Constables and Sub constables I can speak generally, that they are an able body of men, of excellent material, and conspicuous for willingness, endurance, and as far as I can learn, integrity of character.

123. They are fairly disciplined, but there has hardly been an opportunity yet for maturing discipline to the extent desirable in bodies of armed men, and dispersed as they are, through the immensity of space without much communication with Head Quarters, a great deal must depend upon the individual intelligence, acquisitions and steadiness of the Inspectors in perfecting discipline, drill, interior economy, equitation, and care of horses, saddlery and equipment, together with Police duties on which they might be occasionally required.

124. I confess I think some of the Inspec-