

of the treaty in this and the Onion Lake agencies. Indians coming to town from the various reserves, and staying around when they should return, are always sent back and escorted by our men.

This district has been remarkably free from prairie fires during the past summer and fall. No information of an infringement of the ordinance relating to prairie fires was laid before me. No fires were noticed in the neighborhood. I heard of one having been seen on the prairie some forty miles the south-west, but no damage was reported to have been done.

A contract has been signed for the erection of a permanent bridge over the Battle River, and the greater portion of the timber required has been got out. This will obviate considerable annoyance in the spring time when that river is opening. There are generally a few days when communication is entirely cut off from the south side of the river until it clears sufficiently to enable a ferry to run.

Discipline has been efficiently maintained in this division without severity, as is evidenced by the comparatively few entries in the defaulters' book. I have every reason to be well satisfied with the conduct of the men under my command. The weak strength of the division, when compared with the area occupied by the barracks, renders the work necessary to keep the post clean and in good order to be unusually great. Wood is the sole fuel used here, about 1,200 cords being required annually to supply the different quarters and kitchens. This wood is cut into suitable stove lengths by means of a horse-power and circular-saw, operated by our own horses and men.

Every available opportunity was taken advantage of during the year to drill the men in the use of small arms and 9-pr. field artillery. Parades for drill in field movements have been held during the summer every week, and great steadiness and proficiency in marching, &c., has been attained by all ranks. Each man in the division was carefully put through a course of musketry instruction by Sergeant Mahoney, prior to the annual target practice, with good results, as shown by the record of target practice already forwarded. Great interest was taken in this training and exercise both by the instructor and men. After the completion of the regulation course of instruction a Winchester Rifle Club was organized in the division, numbering about forty members, and a two days meeting held on the 28th and 29th September to compete for a large number of prizes. The competitions were keen, "ties" having to be shot off for nearly every prize.

The general health of the division has been excellent. I regret to have to report that one man (Constable U. A. Vachon) died here of Bright's disease in the month of September, but with this exception nothing of a serious nature came under the notice of Assistant-Surgeon Ayles.

During the fall an epidemic of fever, stated by the Veterinary Surgeon to be typhoid, broke out among the horses. Every care and attention was paid to them, notwithstanding which nine horses died. Veterinary Surgeon Burnett came from Regina and concurred fully in Staff-Sergeant Poett's diagnosis and treatment. My horses are now fully recovered from the sickness referred to, and are all healthy and in good condition. A few of the horses of this division are, from age and other causes, unfit for Police service, and an early opportunity should be taken to have them cast and sold. I will, however, be able to utilize these horses until next spring, when I may be supplied with re-mounts.

The provisions supplied by the contractors during the year have all been of excellent quality and have given every satisfaction.

The clothing and other articles of kit issued are fully up to the standard, and the system of cash compensation for kit not drawn is beneficial in every way.

The transport supplied this Post is in excellent order. The patrol waggons and buck-boards sent up from Regina a few months ago are serviceable, and just the articles we require.

Considerable advantage is taken in this division of the opportunity of banking afforded by the Department; \$5,136 was deposited in the past twelve months by