

through the wild west—a service of the utmost danger, from grizzlies, Indians and mountain torrents. The Indians could not always be avoided, and sanguinary conflicts were not uncommon. One of these in which he was taken prisoner by the notorious “Sitting Bull,” gave “Kootenai” excitement enough to last him for life. I will give you the account of it as related in the “Round Up,” it may interest readers and give them an idea of the class of men who first settled in Alberta.

The Kootenai is a very rapid river in springtime, and dangerous to ford. A most harrowing accident occurred some years ago to a rancher who was crossing in a farm-waggon with his family — one a baby in arms. The ice gave way on one side, precipitating the mother and three children into the rushing water. The mother, wrapping her baby in a shawl put it under her left arm and by great exertion placed the two children in the wagon, she then thought to take the baby out of the shawl, but to her horror found it empty — the poor child had dropped into the merciless torrent—was carried under the ice, and never seen again. The anguish of that bereaved mother can hardly be conceived. Bridges have since been built which can be used when the river is in flood.

Several floods occurred last year, doing much damage, both to private and to public property; ranchers now know the dangers of building in the river bottoms and will in future avoid them. Such floods have never before occurred since the country was settled. Strange to say, the Indians predicted these floods to occur last summer; the prediction, unfortunately, was verified.

Up to the present time roads have not been much to boast of; a trail was made across the prairie, and, when it wore into holes, another was made alongside. Creeks and rivers had to be forded as best they could be. Now, bridges and culverts are built and the roads are being graded.