

with the Indians had this man not been taken. Major Crozier informed Crowfoot, the head chief, that if the man was not given up by the next day he would take him by force, and at the same time a temporary fort was made out of one of the buildings, flour sacks being used for a barricade. A very good fortification was made in a very short time and every precaution taken in the event of the Indians showing fight. This prompt measure overawed the Indians who, though in large numbers, did not dare to go to extremities. The Indian was taken the next day without any resistance and sent into Fort MacLeod, where he was tried by Colonel MacLeod and imprisoned.

A detachment of police was left at the Crossing, and was there when I arrived. This had happened only a short time before I arrived, and the Indians were still in a most excited state, and very little would have made them leave their reserve and start across the line again, which would have led to most serious complications, as many of the Indians belonging to other tribes would have followed them, and in all probability a large number of cattle would have been killed before they left. On arriving at the Crossing I went into everything thoroughly and had many meetings of the Indians, who I found were really very badly off, no tools to work with being the principal want, axes particularly. They all expressed themselves as anxious to work if they only had tools. These I promised them as I knew a large number would soon be sent in. I made arrangements with the beef contractors to take over the heads and offal at \$1 per animal and gave instructions to have these issued as rations. In this way no loss was sustained by the Department and the Indians were perfectly satisfied. This settled one of the chief causes of trouble, and I, at the same time, promised the Indians I would see that they did not run out of food, and also that the Government would have tools enough for them to work with before long, also seed in the spring.

Previous to leaving Fort MacLeod, I made arrangements with I. G. Baker & Co.'s agent to take over what flour they had to spare, as Col. MacLeod informed me he had none on hand.

The flour at the crossing was nearly out, and on the Sarcee and Stony reserves had run out for some time. It was lucky that I procured what I did, as, had the provisions again run out at the Crossing, the consequences would have been serious. I left matters in much better shape at the Crossing, and the Indians all expressed themselves satisfied to leave matters in my hands. I found that a great deal of cheating had been going on in rationing, as a much larger number of Indians were drawing rations than there really were. Somewhere near 3,000 people had at one time been drawing rations. This was caused by the large number of Indians who had been paid the previous fall in excess of the proper number, and their holding pay tickets for the number paid, from which the ration tickets had been issued. We reduced the number greatly, but it was impossible to come at the real number at once, which could only be done thoroughly at the next payments. I found the Blackfeet willing to work had they received assistance, but they had been badly neglected, and in consequence, knowing this, were very wild and unsettled. I engaged Mr. Norrish to take charge of them, he having been in charge of this reserve twice before, and being the only man I knew, able to manage them in their present state. The Indians also all liked him.

I proceeded to Fort Calgary and visited the Sarcees and Stoneys, the latter Indians are getting on well as they make a good deal of their living from hunting in the mountains. They had nearly all built houses, but were also badly in need of tools such as axes. The Sarcees I did not find doing at all well. Their flour had run out some time and they were in consequence much dissatisfied. They had done little or no work, not having tools, and the Agency itself being almost without any. They had only a few houses built.

The flour from Fort MacLeod arrived while I was there, which, with my promising to see that in future they would be supplied, went a long way to satisfy this. I was obliged to discharge Mr. Grant, who had been in charge of that reserve, owing to grave irregularities, which I reported at the time, and I placed Mr. Stewart in charge