

country. Even American traders from Montana clandestinely visited the Indian camps with the same project in view.

The natural inclination of the Indians themselves, Assinaboines and Crees alike, was to remain about the Cypress Hills. It is almost impossible for any one not present at Fort Walsh to form any adequate idea of the incessant work I was called upon to perform and the difficulties I had to encounter in carrying out the policy of the Government. For some considerable time I found it impossible to leave Fort Walsh for a single day; the difficulty I had in obtaining transport was also exceptionally great.

As far as practicable I transported them with police horses and waggons. In "Pie-a-pot's" case I sent four waggons, with a strong escort of police. A portion of the escort, with one waggon, went through to Qu'Appelle; the remainder of the escort and waggons returned from "Old Wives' Lake," where they were met by transport sent from Qu'Appelle by the Indian Department.

This escort I sent with the Crees, as I was aware that war parties of Blood Indians had been seen in the vicinity of the Cypress Hills. "Pie-a-pot's" band arrived at Qu'Appelle on the 23rd July.

At the time of "Pie-a-pot's" departure from Fort Walsh, the Cree chief, "Big Bear" (non-treaty Indian), "Lucky Man," and "Little Pine," with about 200 lodges, finding that I would not assist them in any way unless they went north, started from Fort Walsh to the plains in a southerly direction. These chiefs informed me that their intention was to take "a turn" on the plains in quest of Buffalo, and after their hunt to go north. They added that they did not intend crossing the international boundary line,—a statement which I considered questionable at the time.

I, therefore, at the request of the officer commanding the United States troops at Fort Assinaboine, informed the American authorities of the departure of these chiefs. The Americans in expressing their thanks were much gratified with the information imparted.

If but few did cross the line, they were deterred only by fear of punishment by United States troops, who had formed a large summer camp at the big bend of the Milk River.

At the time of the departure of these chiefs from Fort Walsh, I told them that the American Government was opposed to their crossing the line, and stated in a clear and positive manner that any punishment which might be inflicted upon them by the American Troops could only be regarded as the result of their own stubborn folly, in not acting upon the advice of the Canadian Government, given purely in the interest of the Indians themselves.

By the departure of these chiefs, Fort Walsh was entirely rid of Indians. Thus the policy of the Government had been carried out in its entirety, and I trust that the Government have every reason to be satisfied by the manner in which this was done, as far as the North-West Mounted Police is concerned.

In the month of August, Indians from the bands of "Big Bear," "Lucky Man" and "Little Pine," commenced returning to Fort Walsh. They formed themselves in small bands, subsisting principally on the result of their hunt, although it was small, the presence of the American troops had prevented them from travelling as far south as they intended.

Their bands were gradually increased in size by new arrivals. They were in such utterly wretched condition and with so few horses, that they could make no movement northward to their reservations, they had no definite plan as to their future movements, and stated that they could not make any until their chiefs arrived. These chiefs soon afterwards came in. Aid from the Government in shape of food was most sparingly issued during the time negotiations were being opened in view of moving these Indians northward as had been done with others in the spring. A report was received that "Pie-a-pot" and many others of his followers were returning from their reservations to Fort Walsh, and expressing themselves dissatisfied with their reception. Such a report, as might be naturally expected caused some little consternation among the Indians, and had the effect for the time being, of