

## APPENDIX DD.

ANNUAL REPORT OF VETERINARY STAFF SERGEANT POETT,  
"A" DIVISION, 1890.

MAPLE CREEK, 1st December, 1890.

SIR,—I beg leave respectfully to state that upon my being transferred from "C" to "A" Division I arrived at Maple Creek on the 10th July last, and immediately took over the veterinary medical duties and stores of the division under your command as Veterinary Staff Sergeant.

I found the horses in good condition. There were some few surgical cases, that were at once placed under treatment, and were soon after discharged from the sick-stable cured, and returned to duty. Nine horses I found, on a thorough examination, to be unfit for further service in the Force. These were brought before the Commissioner and cast, by order of a Board of officers assembled for that purpose.

All saddle horses of this division are now shod with a light, narrow, bevelled shoe, with small calks in winter; all team horses are shod with the wide-webbed concave shoe, which has been found in this section of the country the pattern best adapted to the work our horses are called upon to perform.

The team horses of "A" Division are a very superior class of draught animals, and by no means too heavy for the active work at which they are constantly employed, especially during the summer months. The trails which deviate in different directions through the Cypress Hills are only accessible by a continual up-hill grade, over which many of these horses are constantly travelling, owing to the fact of their having to draw rations and forage, *i.e.* oats, to the different frontier detachments of this division situated in the Cypress Hills. The nature of the ground in certain sections of this district is very stony, and the nearer you approach the foot-hills the more rocky the trails become.

I found all the saddle horses free from lameness, which is a remarkable fact, when one takes into consideration the long distances gone over daily by the mounted men of this division while employed upon patrol duty.

Shortly after my arrival at this Post I was informed that glanders was present in the district. I was ordered to examine a number of horses in the Bear Creek district, I immediately proceeded to the above named place, and there inspected nearly all the horses belonging to the ranchers in that part of the country. Then all stock, both in and around Maple Creek for a considerable distance, was examined. I found one horse afflicted with acute glanders, showing all the diagnostic symptoms of that disease. I also found several cases of chronic glanders, which were immediately destroyed, in compliance with the ordinance relating to contagious and infectious diseases of animals in the North-West Territories.

At Swift Current I also found chronic glanders in a herd of horses, two of which were destroyed, and the remainder isolated.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that no new cases have been reported, and I trust ere long this most serious and troublesome disease will be a thing of the past in the Territories.

The quality of the hay supplied to this Post is excellent, but it was put up under considerable difficulty, owing to the unusually wet season that prevailed.

The oats supplied were well-filled Black Tartary and white oats mixed, and upon inspection were found clean and of good quality.

All horses belonging to the various detachments of this division have been seen and examined. Proper supplies of veterinary medicine and instructions for its use have been furnished to the different non-commissioned officers in charge of the detached Posts.