

Leod, to send me copies of the records there. Should they reach me before the report is transmitted to Ottawa, I will prepare a tabulated statement of them, which will accompany it as appendix B. (Statement not received.) These three stations, namely, Fort Walsh, Fort McLeod and Fort Calgary, constitute all which during the present season I have had the opportunity of visiting and inspecting.

On the morning of the second day after my arrival at Head Quarters, I again entered upon the medical duties of the post. At this time all the beds in both wards of the hospital, eight in number, were fully occupied; six of these were cases of typho-malarial fever, one was a civilian, and one man, Constable Regañ, for whom there was no vacancy in the hospital proper, having been provided for in an unused room within the Fort, a serious outbreak of typho-malarial fever having occurred about four weeks previously. Of these nine men, three, namely, Constables Regan, Johnson, and Tonkin, were in extreme danger; one of them, Constable Tonkin, I regret to say, died a fortnight later, in the seventh week of his illness, though every available means at my disposal, aided by most watchful and considerate nursing both night and day, were maintained to the last by Acting Orderly Constable Allan, to whom I am under great obligations for untiring services of a very difficult nature performed during this trying period. Of the remaining men at that time in hospital, some of whom had not then reached the crisis of the disease, all are now convalescing, one only, who has been nine weeks confined to bed, being still too weak to leave it, though improving daily. The new cases admitted have also done well, and by the 30th instant I hope once more to show a clean bill of health. Appendix (2) shows the number of sick treated by me, from October 16 to this date, at Fort Walsh.

There is only one condition springing from a double source, in the presence of which typho-malarial fever can originate and prevail, and to *these causes alone* and to *no other* has been due the prevalence of this protracted and too often fatal affection as it has lately existed at Fort Walsh. One of these sources is malaria, the other is animal effluvia, that is, effluvia evolved from decaying animal matter, either as dead animal bodies, animal excretions, or the refuse of animal food passing into a condition of putrescence. The first of these abounds at certain seasons of the year in all the river bottoms of the North-West Territory, so far as my personal knowledge and enquiries extend, and these are the positions which have hitherto been uniformly selected as sites for the forts and posts of the North-West Mounted Police. The second is generated everywhere under favorable atmospheric conditions, where considerable bodies of men are congregated or confined for any length of time to one place, and where cleanliness and an intelligent observance of sanitary rules are not rigidly enforced. By the entrance of this last into human bodies already saturated with malaria, either by breathing air, or drinking water impregnated with the products of putrefaction, a mixed idiopathic fever is generated, which depresses the powers of life, corrupts the blood, and gives birth to a complex disorder, in which the combined actions of paludal and pythogenetic influences unite in the production of a so called typho-malarial fever, varying in type as one or the other sources predominates, always dangerous and protracted, and too often, especially in youth and adolescence, of a very fatal character.

Both these sources of disease were, on my arrival, in active operation at Fort Walsh, though within the last month something has been done to amend at least one of them with appreciable results. As this Fort and McLeod will probably be shortly dismantled, the facts here brought to your notice, which are unquestionable, ought to influence the selection of new sites, more especially that for headquarters, and lead, from their very inception, to a rigid enforcement of sanitary regulations. The health of the Force in this Territory ought to be exceptionally good, the climate, as a rule, being highly salubrious, but the length of the sick reports indicates much general indisposition and more actual disease than is at first apparent, the greater part of which is of a purely preventible nature.

I propose now to offer a few suggestions and, first, with reference to the enlistment of recruits.