

respecting the Sioux and other Indians, and small bands commenced coming into Battleford in an almost starving condition, and the arrivals continued to the extent of about two thousand, consisting of Crees, Saulteaux, Assiniboine, Sioux, Blackfoot, Crees, and Bloods.

It was feared at one time that the presence of such a large number of mixed tribes would lead to trouble, but they were all assisted by the Indian Department. Some of the tribes that did not belong to the Saskatchewan were given rations to take them back to their own localities, but the majority of them remained here until after the annuity payments in August. During the annuity payments the police under my command received and distributed the Indian supplies at the following places of payment: Fort Pitt, Sounding Lake, Carlton, Duck Lake, Prince Albert, and Fort à la Corne. An escort of eight men was sent to Sounding Lake under command of Inspector French. Corporal Wyld and Constable Armstrong were sent as an escort to Victoria with annuity money for Superintendent Jarvis. Surgeon Miller and nine men were left in charge of Battleford, while I proceeded with Staff Sergeant Price and two constables to make the payments at Carlton, Duck Lake, Prince Albert and La Corne. On my arrival at Carlton, I found that no money had arrived for the payments and that the Indians were adverse to payment by cheques. I deemed it advisable to put off the payments for a few days, and went down to the forks of the Saskatchewan expecting to meet the steamer conveying Mr. Orde, Indian Agent, with the money, and bring him up overland as quickly as possible. After waiting at the forks two nights and a day and hearing nothing of the steamer or Mr. Orde, I returned to Carlton, and after explaining the situation to the Indians, they consented to take cheques as payment, so I proceeded to make the payments. I found their presents would not be forwarded for two days, so I had to ration the Indians; I then proceeded to Duck Lake to pay the band there, but the Chief wanted to kill time and get as much provisions as he could before taking his money. I informed them that I would either pay them then or leave them and stop their rations. Some of the band took their money, others, thinking I would give them another chance, would not. I then returned to Carlton, and distributed the presents which had arrived by that time. I afterwards made the payments at Prince Albert and Fort à la Corne, and distributed the presents, everything passing off quietly. I then returned to Battleford, having been absent three weeks, during which time I travelled 650 miles and made payments at four different places. I cannot speak too highly of the conduct of the members of the force who were present at the payments. They were most attentive to all duties entrusted to them and patient with the Indians; they were at work late and early distributing and receiving supplies.

In addition to the above payments, I also paid the Duck Lake Indians their 1878 annuity money (which they refused to take at payment time). In February last, I also distributed provisions to the Indians at Carlton, Duck Lake and Prince Albert, and in fact acted the part of Indian Agent to them under the instructions of His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Laird during last winter, and up to the arrival of the Indian Agent in that district in August last.

#### QUARTERS.

The Battleford barracks are just as you saw them last summer, except that they were all muddled over when the cold weather set in. They are still very uncomfortable; we are now burning from four to five cords of wood per day, and it is only by keeping on fires night and day that the buildings are made habitable. This morning, with the thermometer 37° below zero, water was frozen on the top of the stove in my bedroom, notwithstanding there was sufficient fire in the stove to start the morning fire. Owing to the Presbyterian Missionary not arriving at Prince Albert last fall, I have been able to rent the Mission buildings again for the winter at a rental of \$12 per month for quarters, store-room and stables. I would recommend, if this detachment is to be permanent, that suitable quarters be built for them. ~~51~~ The Duck Lake detachment is