

The United States military authorities have in all cases aided us as far as lay in their power, which is more limited than ours.

General Sheridan, United States Army, in his annual report, mentions the amicable relations which exist between the United States troops and this force, which, he says, go far in ensuring quiet along the boundary line.

On the 29th of May last a party of some two hundred Blood Indians arrived at Fort Walsh from their reservation near Fort MacLeod. These two hundred men were well mounted and fully equipped as a war party, all armed with Winchester repeating rifles and a large supply of ammunition. On arrival they came at once to me and reported that the Crees had stolen some forty head of horses from them, and had been stealing all winter. The object of their visit was to recover their stolen horses from the Crees, their intention being to go on to the Cree camp at "the lake" east of Fort Walsh. Feeling assured that, if this was done, serious trouble would ensue, I told the Bloods I would not allow this, informing them at the same time that I would send an officer and party, with a small number of their representative men, to the Cree camp, and that if their horses were there they would be returned to them. To this the Indians agreed.

I detailed Inspector Frechette for the duty; six Blood Indians accompanied him to the Cree Camp.

This officer returned on the following day with three horses belonging to the Bloods. I was satisfied that, with the exception of two other horses, which were afterwards returned by the Crees, the horses the Bloods had lost were stolen by American Indians.

On the night of the 30th May, I held an interview with the Bloods; they appeared much disappointed at not getting their horses, the loss of which they persisted in laying at the door of the Crees, notwithstanding the fact that a woman of their own tribe, who had for some time been living with the Crees, assured them that none of their horses had been in the Cree Camp, except those returned, and the three brought in by the police; the interviews I mention having been held, took place in my office, I having allowed some of the Indians (unarmed) into the Fort. They all expressed themselves in the most friendly terms towards the Police Force and myself personally. They promised me they would return home on the following morning. About 2 o'clock on the morning of the 31st May, Superintendent Cotton reported to me that there was some excitement in the Blood camp, which he had just visited. A number of Blood Indians had just ridden off towards the Macleod road, and the few that still remained had their horses saddled. Superintendent Cotton and myself immediately went out in front of the post, where the Blood Camp had been. The Indians had just gone, their fires were still lighted, and candles burning in the few tents which I had loaned them on their arrival, the weather then being stormy. The Indians made off, yelling and firing their rifles, proving that they were in an excited state. The greater part of the camp showed signs of its having been most hurriedly abandoned, as cups, cooking utensils, and food, were left behind. The tents I had loaned them were not damaged, but some eight Cree lodges which were in close proximity, were torn down and destroyed by the Bloods. These lodges had fortunately been abandoned on the inmates hearing the unusual noises in the Blood Camp. The Cree women had been "cached" in houses about the settlement, as they naturally feared the Bloods who are the hereditary enemies of the Crees. A short distance from this camp of Cree lodges, I found the body of a dead Indian (Cree). Assistant Surgeon Kennedy examined the body, and found seven or eight gunshot wounds and three stabs. The scalp was taken. I had the body placed in the lodge at once, and buried a few hours afterwards. The Indian killed was an idiot and almost blind.

The Blood Indians presented letters to me on their arrival, from their Indian Agent.

I would here point out the danger and evil results which are likely to arise from the Indians being allowed to leave their reserve in large numbers.