

PART III.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER,
NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE,
HEAD QUARTERS, REGINA,

1st January, 1883.

The Honorable

The Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa.

SIR,—Soon after my arrival at Fort Walsh in April last, I commenced holding daily councils with the Indians (Crees and Assinaboines) with a view of persuading them to move northward to settle upon the new reservations.

In fact, for the greater part of the month of April my whole time was so taken up.

The obstacles placed in the way of such a movement, by the Indians themselves, were innumerable. For some time I feared I should find it impossible to induce "Pie-a-Pot," (who is a half Cree and half Assinaboine) and his followers to proceed to a northern reservation. Ultimately, however, "Pie-a-pot" agreed to go on his reservation, if he received the pair of horses and a waggon which had been promised to him by the Assistant Indian Commissioner in a letter to Superintendent McIlree, who was then Acting Indian Agent at Fort Walsh. He also asked for a horse and cart for each of his head men. I agreed that these articles should be furnished, and they were subsequently given him and his head men. In the case of the Assinaboines also I experienced much trouble. These Indians have always looked upon the Cypress Hills as their home. It is not therefore, to be wondered at that I had considerable difficulty in inducing them to accept a new and northern reserve. "The-man-that-took-the-coat," or "Jack," was the first Assinaboine Chief who consented to proceed to the reservation allotted him by the Government.

I afterwards secured a promise from "Long Lodge," "The Poor Man," and "Bear's Head," that they and their people would accept the new reservations as allotted by the Indian Department. "Long Lodge's" reservation near Qu'Appelle, "The Poor Man," and "Bear's Head," in the vicinity of Battleford, their previous reservations having been at Maple Creek near Fort Walsh.

The Assinaboine chiefs "Jack" and "Long Lodge" left Maple Creek farm in charge of Mr. English, farm instructor, being accompanied by a small detachment of police, and straggling Crees belonging to "Little Child's" and "Sparrow Hawk's" bands, they reached Qu'Appelle on the 1st June. I was afterwards informed that their reserve had been selected at Indian-head, about twenty-four miles south-east of Qu'Appelle.

"Bear's Head" and "Poor Man" (Assinaboines) left Fort Walsh on the 23rd of May for Battleford, they were accompanied by a constable of the force who issued rations while en route. They arrived at Battleford on the 17th June.

On the 23rd of June "Pie-a-pot," with some five hundred followers, left Fort Walsh for Qu'Appelle. The delay that arose from the time of "Pie-a-pot's" promise to go on his new reservation until the time of his departure from Fort Walsh, did not reflect discredit upon this chief, as regards any inclination on his part to act otherwise than in perfect good faith, but was purely owing to our lack of ability to aid him in transport. Such aid was imperative on our part, as the Indians were wretchedly poor and without horses. Considerable influence from different surreptitious quarters was brought to bear with the view of inducing the Indians to remain in the southern district, the object of course, being that they should receive their annuities at Fort Walsh, and thus secure the expenditure of the treaty money in that section of the