

I now beg to make a few remarks on a report that has gone the rounds of the press, both in Canada and the United States, that I was negotiating with Sitting Bull to induce him to consent to be exhibited through the country. Idle and absurd as such reports may seem, yet I feel it my duty to emphatically contradict them, and to say, though I have been asked to assist in securing an engagement of Sitting Bull, I have always declined to do so. Another report, as I am informed, has also gained currency, that Sitting Bull would have surrendered during the last summer, had it not been for the encouragements which I held out to him, of possibly being able to return to his camp with better terms of surrender than the United States had accorded to other Indians. As to this, I beg to say that this report is likewise false, for I have never given Sitting Bull any such encouragement. As I have already stated, after most urgent requests made by Sitting Bull, I told him if the Canadian Government would permit me, I would see the President or Secretary of the Interior for him. I never heard Bull demur very much to the conditions of surrender offered him by the United States Government. His only objection appeared to be the doubt that the conditions would be carried out, and particularly with regard to himself.

July 15th. I handed over the Wood Mountain District to Superintendent Crozier, and took my departure for Qu'Appelle, my new district, which place I reached after a march of four days, and where I met a detachment of my division under command of Inspector Steele, who had arrived some weeks preceding. Inspector Steele had taken over the district from Superintendent Herchmer. I remained at the Qu'Appelle five days, during which time I decided upon the necessary barrack and stable accommodation required for the division during the winter, to be erected by the men of the division Inspector Steele to conduct the work in my absence. I visited Shoal Lake and handed over the police quarters at that place to the Indian Department, reserving barrack and stable room for six men and horses. Having been granted a sick leave, I proceeded from this place (Shoal Lake) to Brockville, Ont.

With so small a force as I had at Wood Mountain, it was very hard to keep up proper discipline, but the conduct of the detachment was extremely good, as can be seen by the few entries against the men composing it, in the annual defaulters' sheet of the force.

As the saddlery of the force must be very soon renewed, I would recommend to your notice the Whitman saddle, pattern lately adopted by the U.S. army. It is lighter and less perishable than any saddle manufactured, and lightness and durability are the essential qualities for a saddle in the police service. Mr. Whitman, late of the U.S. army, the patentee of this saddle, is a cavalry officer of much experience, and from direct observation on frontier service of what class of saddle would be most suitable for rough service, for ease and comfort to horse and rider, decided on the one now recommended. I have used for several years a No. 17 California saddle, from which sprung Mr. Whitman's first idea of the saddle brought out by him, and during that period had many opportunities of trying its superior qualities, on long and fast rides both in summer and winter, and not in one instance did I find this saddle to gall my horse. I have used the Whitman saddle for six months and find it equal in all respects to the Californian, besides having the advantage of being much cheaper, and lighter and less perishable. The bearings of the Whitman on the horse's back are the same as the Californian tree No. 17. I would suggest an examination of this saddle before adopting any other.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

J. W. WALSH,

*Superintendent N.W.M.P.*