

ter himself. The police often came upon the buffalo, and near the Bow River sighted a great herd of about 80,000, the plains being literally black with them as far as the eye could see.

Colonel Macleod sent small detachments of the police to reconnoitre the upper course of the rivers and open up communication with Fort Benton. He secured the services of Jerry Potts, a Piegan half-breed, as guide and interpreter, and sent his men to work to build Fort Macleod. The Indians in the neighbourhood numbered about 8,000, and this gallant officer and his associates soon won their regard and friendship.

Colonel French had proceeded direct to Fort Pelly, where quarters had been built by the Board of Works while the force were in the Bow River Country, but these were found to be inadequate. The hay was also burnt, so the Commission left one troop only and took the other to Winnipeg and thence to Dufferin, where they wintered. In the spring of 1875 they returned to Fort Pelly and made it the headquarters of the police. Captain Walker took a troop to Battleford, and he and Colonel Macleod, with another troop, acted as guards for Lieutenant-Governor Morris and the other Commissioners when the Indian treaties at Fort Carleton and Pitt were made. Captain Walker and his men then returned to Battleford and Colonel Macleod took his troop to Fort Walsh, which now became the headquarters. Colonel French resigned and Colonel Macleod became Commissioner of the whole force.

Colonel Irvine joined the mounted police as Assistant Commissioner in 1875. He travelled through United States territory by way of the Missouri, in order to trace up the Cypress Hills murderers, and told me of his experiences. After eighteen days in a wretched steamer he decided to strike the trail, and with his man-servant got off at Fort Peck, where the Indian agent arranged for their transport to Helena. They

started on their long journey through a country held in great dread by the Americans on account of the Sioux, with whom they were at war. Before leaving, the Colonel was shown the grave of a teamster who was shot down. At night the guide would pitch the tents some distance from the trail, and was careful to make no fires, fearing the smoke would attract the Sioux. *En route*, Colonel Irvine got word of and traced up the principal witness of the Cypress Hills massacre, Alex. le Bombard, a half-breed, who later led the Sioux at Batoche. He accompanied the Colonel to Helena. At Benton they awaited the mail. The great herd of buffalo on their march south had knocked down the telegraph poles, and the connection between Benton and Helena was cut off. At the latter place they found Colonel Macleod awaiting their arrival. The Commissioners laid evidence against the murderers and went to Fort Benton. American troops surrounded the place and the men were arrested and taken to Helena. A lawyer was engaged and a trial followed.

The Commissioners were kept nearly three months trying to get the men extradited, but the Americans would not consent. These men were desperadoes, whisky traders, and wolfers. When the men were released a platform was erected and the defendants made speeches. One said he would wade knee deep in British blood rather than hand them over—then faltered, and a little man, whose legs were very unsteady, hurled his hat in the air, and said next to the Stars and Stripes he would rather live under the Union Jack. The legs gave out and he was hoisted up to say, "Remember, no matter whether they are Indians or Negroes if they are British subjects they are protected." The hat was again thrown up and the legs gave out altogether. The erect figures of the Commissioners amongst these must have made a striking picture. They learned