

## REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT WALKER.

BATTLEFORD, 19th December, 1879.

SIR,—In accordance with your instructions, I have the honor to submit the following report of the Battleford District of the North-West Mounted Police for the year ending 31st December, 1879:—

In the beginning of the year the strength of the different posts under my command was as follows: Battleford,—3 officers and 50 non-commissioned officers and men; Prince Albert, 8 non-commissioned officers and men. The Prince Albert post was established early in the winter of 1878, principally to look after the Sioux Indians, who were said to be causing annoyance to the settlers by petty pilfering, etc., but after the arrival of the Police not a single case of pilfering was charged against them; their conduct all through the winter was surprising, as they were often in want and could not always get work, but still their conduct was good. It was found during the winter that they could not support themselves without assistance, and on my representing their condition to Lieutenant-Governor Laird, Indian Superintendent, he authorized me to assist the most needy from the Police stores and charge the amount to the Indian Department. I visited this detachment every month or six weeks during the year, held councils with the Sioux, and found them most anxious to do what was right and willing to work. During the summer most of them left Prince Albert, some going to the plains, but on the appearance of winter they again returned to Prince Albert, and were followed by some of the Teton Sioux from what is known as "Iron Dog's" Band. The settlers became very much alarmed, and the most exaggerated reports were brought to me of the Sioux depredations. I put very little faith in the reports, as Sergt. Destorges, who is in charge of the Prince Albert detachment, had distinct orders to inform me of the slightest sign of trouble amongst the Sioux. I proceeded to Prince Albert to learn particulars, which I reported fully to you under date of the 10th November, 1879; a copy of this report is annexed hereto. Since that date I have heard several times that the Sioux were quiet and were working for the settlers. I do not anticipate any trouble with them, as I understand the Indian Department is giving them some assistance again this winter.

In February last I received intelligence that Chief Beardy, of Duck Lake and his band of Indians, had threatened several times to break into Stobart, Eden & Co.'s store and help themselves to the Indian stores there. Complaints from the settlers of that neighborhood were also sent to Lieutenant-Governor Laird. After consulting with his Honor, we decided that it would be expedient to station a few policemen there for a time. To carry out this object I started from here on the 10th February. I obtained a house and stable from Stobart, Eden & Co., rent free for that winter, but these buildings required considerable repair to make them fit for use.

I sent for Chief Beardy at that time, and told him what I had heard concerning him and his band, and cautioned him against committing any breach of the peace, and I am happy to be able to report that my action in the matter has had a very good effect on the Indians.

I intended moving the detachment to Prince Albert, last fall, as I was short of men, but on consulting with some of the settlers of Duck Lake, they assured me that the removal would lead to Chief Beardy commencing his threats again, and perhaps putting them into execution. So, taking this into consideration, and the fact that there are a number of Teton Sioux wintering there, I decided to leave two or three men there for the winter.

I fear it will be necessary to make that a permanent station, at least for some years. The Duck Lake Indians will not take a land reserve, and are doing little or nothing for themselves, and I understand they are encouraging the Sioux to come around them.

The beginning of the year was quiet at Battleford, nothing unusual occurred until about the end of March, when we were treated with the most alarming reports