

United States. Our efforts in this respect were accompanied by marked success, as will be seen from the instances I propose quoting.

During the month of May last an American citizen from the Maria's River, Montana, arrived at Fort Walsh. He gave a description of 11 horses which he believed had been stolen from him by our Indians. I sent a party of police out to the various camps and succeeded in recovering and handing over all the horses stolen, taking care that no expense was incurred by the man who had suffered the loss.

Another case happened in the same month. On the 16th I received information to the effect that a war party of Cree Indians, belonging to "Big Bear's" camp, had passed 10 miles south of Fort Walsh *en route* to their camp at "the Lake," 30 miles east of that post, with a band of valuable horses. The brands seen showed that they had been stolen from white men south of the line. The day after this information reached me, two Americans from the Teton River, near Fort Benton, Montana, arrived at Fort Walsh. These men described fully the horses stolen from them, and brought letters from settlers relative to other horses stolen at the same time. From various admissions made by the Indians ("Big Bear's" followers), I learned that a war party had made a raid on an American settlement on the Teton River, stealing almost every horse. I immediately, on the arrival of the Americans, sent for "Big Bear," who happened to be then at Fort Walsh, informing him that I intended starting for his camp, which I did half an hour after the arrival of the Americans, in order to recover the horses his people had stolen. I started with an officer and 22 men, taking "Big Bear" with me. The two Americans accompanied me. On the arrival at "The Lake," I found the entire Cree camp numbering 500 lodges. I told them that I must have every horse stolen handed over to me. They obeyed, and brought in, with one or two exceptions, all the horses. These exceptions were in cases where the horses had strayed, but they were subsequently brought in to me. On the following morning I returned to Fort Walsh with 32 horses. While at "The Lake," I told the Indians that horse-stealing, whether south of the line or not, must cease, as in every case the horses would be taken from them; and if proof could be obtained of the guilty Indians, they would be severely punished. I might mention that in the recovery of these horses I received every assistance from the Indian Chiefs, "Pie-a-Pot" and "Little Pine."

At Qu'Appelle, 9 horses and 6 mules, which had been stolen from Fort Buford, U. S. A., were recovered by Inspector Griesbach of "B" Division, and returned to Messrs. Leighton, Jordan & Co., their owners.

I could quote many instances where horses in small numbers, stolen from Montana, have been recovered and returned.

In the early part of the season the country in the vicinity of the Cypress Hills was infested with horse thieves; these were principally American Indians from the Piegan reservation, 90 miles west of Fort Shaw, Montana. Large numbers of horses were stolen from both Indians and white men in our country. In some cases the thefts committed were daring, one stable being broken into at the settlement, Fort Walsh. As a general rule the horses so stolen could not be recovered, as they were immediately taken across the line before we were informed or able to pursue the thieves. I regret to say that those stolen horses could not be secured though they were traced by their owners across the line, as the United States Indian Department did not show the same disposition to aid our citizens, as we have invariably, as far as lay in our power, afforded them.

The following case speaks for itself:—

A half-breed, named Pelletier, was camped in the Cypress Hills with a large number of horses. He was attacked and fired on by United States Indians, who drove off his horses across the line. He subsequently visited the Piegan reservation, and though he saw many of his horses in the possession of the Indians, he was unable to recover them.

I have written to Messrs. J. G. Baker & Co., requesting them to endeavor to procure, with the assistance of the Sheriff, the recovery of Pelletier's horses, as well as those stolen at a later date from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.