

and commenced this day. He contracted to carry 300 lbs. of mail matter for \$120 per month.

This contract was transferred to L. Daniels on 1st July, and let to him for one year (to carry 150 lbs. only during winter months).

#### 9TH APRIL.—PRAIRIE FIRE.

During a high wind a large prairie fire approached the post, and struck a portion of the Sioux camp, destroying eight lodges and killing one man and one child.

S. C. Sheppard saved the lives of three children by courageously rushing into a burning lodge, which was surrounded by fire, and extricating them. The Indians, when the fire struck their camp, ran away and left their women and children to save themselves.

#### 14TH MAY.—STOLEN HORSES.

Mr. Cooper, a citizen of the United States, arrived here and reported the loss of his stock (ten horses and one mule) suspected to have been stolen by Teton Sioux, from the Coal Banks, on Missouri River. After a search of one week I left here on the 30th inst., taking Cooper, a scout, and three men, for the Sioux camp, supposed at the time to be 15 miles south of Pinto Horse Butte, at the crossing of White Mud River. On arriving at White Mud River I discovered a loose trail showing horse and mule shoe tracks, and following this up, after a scout of 8 days found and returned Mr. Cooper his horses.

#### 17TH JUNE.—SPRING DRILL.

The detachment was put through a course of spring and setting up drill.

#### 5TH JULY.—SIOUX SUN DANCE.

The Sioux camp assembled 20 miles west of this post, and on the 7th and 8th instant held their annual sun dance, when about fifty young men of the tribe gave themselves over to savage torture by lariatting their flesh, hanging from poles by rents made in the skin of their breasts, etc., to appease the wrath of the Great Spirit and wash away the sins committed by the tribes since their last sun meeting.

#### 15TH JULY.—U. S. EXPEDITION TO MILK RIVER AND BOUNDARY LINE.

About this date Lieutenant Tillson, U.S.A., arrived at this post (*via* Fort Walsh) bearing a despatch from General Miles, U.S.A., requesting the arrest of certain Indians who were suspected of committing a murder on the Yellowstone River in the month of March, and were now supposed to be in the Teton Sioux camp.

Lieutenant Tillson brought with him a man named Sturms, who was present when the murder was committed, and was wounded while making his escape, and who could identify the perpetrators.

Sturms informed me that the party consisted of five Indians, two Nez Percés, one the "White Eye" and the other "Johnson," and three Sioux.

The Sioux he could not give any description of, but thought he would know them if he saw them again.

I immediately set to work to trace these men, and found that the "White Eye" had been killed nine days previous by Crow Indians near the Little Rockies; and that "Johnson" was in the Teton camp, situated about thirty miles west of this post.

I then concluded to take Sturms to the camp and let him see "Johnson;" giving him, at the same time, an opportunity to identify the three Sioux.