

of one of the rapids, in the middle of this violent torrent.

22. Proceeding south I passed over a bleak and rather barren prairie land entirely devoid of timber or even shrubs, our camp kettles being boiled on fires constituted of buffalo chips only.

23. After 200 miles travel over this pathless waste and crossing several minor streams by the way, we reached Fort McLeod, the most remote of all the Police posts situated on the old Man's River a few miles south east from the Porcupine Hills, and 50 miles due east from the entrance of the so-called Kootenay Pass, through the Rocky Mountains.

24. I shall refer specially to this and the other Police posts further on.

25. Leaving my staff to proceed towards the Kootenay Pass to await my return, I proceeded after one day's halt, in company with assistant commissioner McLeod, to pay a visit to the United States General Officer commanding in Montana, in obedience to instructions from the Secretary of State, to whom I have had the honor to furnish a special report on the result of my conference with Brigadier General Gibbon at Fort Shaw, 250 miles from Fort McLeod, as well as my further conference with Major General Howard some weeks later, on passing through his department in the territories of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

26. I refer to this subject here, as the questions on which I had to treat related to the suppression of crime on the frontier, and the capture of criminals and plunderers on both sides of the International boundary, a duty in which the Mounted Police are largely interested.

27. I am in great hopes the result of my conferences may tend to facilitate and simplify the duties of this force which has already proved so efficient by the moral effect of its presence as well as by the keen activity and prudence of some of the officers in command.

28. Returning with Lt. Col. MacLeod to wards the passes of the Rocky Mountains, along their eastern slopes, and past the base of Chief Mountain we saw some of the monuments erected recently by the Boundary Commissioners; these, constructed of loose stones, have been nearly demolished by the buffaloes. We threw as many of the stones on their piles as time permitted, but I venture to mention that unless more durable monuments are quickly erected, the buffalo will soon leave few to mark the spots.

29. In crossing Birch Creek in the vicinity of the Marias we found 170 lodges of South Peigan Indians, numbering about 700 people. With these I passed an evening similar to that with the Blackfeet and heard nearly the same sentiments towards the Police and myself. They were going north to hunt the buffalo, and spoke in loud praise of the now settled and peaceful state of the Country north of the boundary line. A treaty of peace has recently been formed between these people, the Assiniboines and the Blackfeet, through the instrumentality of Inspector Walsh at Cypress Hills, which these Indians assured me they intended to observe inviolate and which will produce a prospect of peace probably unknown in that country through all past time.

30. At the eastern entrance of the Kootenay, or, as it is generally termed there, the Elk River Pass, we reached our standing camp, where our transport wagons were exchanged for pack horses of the Mounted Police, by means of which we penetrated the mountains, and after a rough journey of 100 miles through dense forest, over two precipitous mountain ranges, amidst a network of

fallen timber, intersected by dangerous morasses, we eventually crossed the Elk and Kootenay Rivers, and reached Joseph's Prairie, 12 miles from Wild Horse Creek, where the duties of the Mounted Police, as regarded our further progress, ceased. We crossed from thence to Vancouver Island by arrangement of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, but finding from all sources information at Kootenay, that it would be dangerous, if not impracticable to attempt to cross many miles of quagmire and muskeg, and to climb the rugged and broken passes of Shepherds Mountain, which lies between the bends of the Kootenay and Columbia Rivers, moreover without any means for crossing those turbulent rivers on that route, it was therefore necessary to proceed 200 miles south to Spokane, in United States Territory, in order to turn this mountain and morass. I consequently determined with the view of saving expense to the Government for transport and hired packmen to strike south 200 miles, further to Walla Walla, rather than to return 200 miles north from Spokane for the sake of passing through the only 140 miles remaining of British Territory, between the point where the boundary line would be intersected and Hope on the Fraser River.

31. Captain Ward, one of my Staff for the expedition, kindly undertook to proceed by that route at his own expense from Spokane and to make me acquainted with any items of consequence, but I found on his rejoining me at Victoria, that there was nothing of any importance to relate.

32. By taking the Walla Walla route by the line of the Lower Columbia, I was fortunate enough to have much interchange of opinion with Major General Howard on the subject of mutual action against criminals of both countries.

33. Before quitting this little narrative of my journey with the Mounted Police may I be permitted to record how very completely the considerate, and well matured arrangements of the Department of Justice for the progress of myself and Staff, were executed by the Officers of the Mounted Police and by the men and horses of the escort which accompanied me for about 1500 miles over a rough country interrupted frequently by deep rivers, by rugged hills and precipitous ravines, by swamps and morasses, trying to horses as well as men.

34. Through all that long and toilsome march, day by day, this escort never flagged, always ready, willing, and obedient, untiring in their exertions, which sometimes called for much endurance. If I were to judge of the Mounted Police force as a body, by that little escort, which was not composed of selected men, they deserve a very high character from me.

My staff on the expedition was composed of Captain the Honorable M. Stapleton Coldstream Guards, A.D.C.; Captain Ward, A.D.C. to his Excellency the Governor General, and Lieutenant the Honorable T. Fitzwilliam, A.D.C., Royal Horse Guards, and afterwards joined by the Honorable Evelyn Ellis, late Royal Navy.

*The sufficiency of the Force in respect of numbers, discipline, and equipment, including horses, arms, saddlery, means of transport, &c.*

35. The Force consists of 29 officers and 300 men and horses; the Commander is termed Commissioner, and his second in command, Assistant Commissioner, the remaining officers are respectively inspectors and sub inspectors, and the men designated constables and sub constables, the former

answering to the status of non commissioned officers.

36. The Force is divided into 6 Divisions of 50 men each; it may be considered fairly sufficient for the duties it is at present called upon to perform.

37. The moral effect of its presence has already produced a wholesome improvement in the condition of the wandering tribes of the prairies, and the nomadic inhabitants of the North West generally, and caused a feeling of security throughout the settlements of the Territory.

38. For a newly raised force, hastily enrolled and equipped, it is in very fair order—its organization is based upon sound principles, but there is room for improvement in several respects on which I represent herewith a confidential report.

39. It will be readily understood that in the detached state of the Force so much time have been occupied in providing shelter for men and horses it is hitherto been next to impossible to bestow proper attention on discipline, interior economy, equitation, the care of horses, saddlery, equipment and the duties of constables—all of which are quite indispensable.

40. I consider that men should be recruited from the rural districts, a few only for clerks &c., to be taken from Towns. The decayed gentleman is a failure. They should be active young men, sons of farmers accustomed to face all kind of weather and rough work as well as the use of horses, this element is badly wanted in the Force.

41. I might also observe that many of the men at present are of too heavy a build for the strength of their horses.

42. The horses are however a very fair average lot. They have been generally purchased in Ontario.

43. I should much prefer selecting them from rural districts than from horse dealers and sale stables. A better, sounder, and cheaper description of horses could thus be obtained.

44. There are some native ponies, and though these animals cannot be expected to carry men with arms and accoutrements for any great distance, yet they are useful for various purposes, particularly late in the fall or in the winter.

45. I think a useful and cheap sort of horse can be procured in Montana and also in Washington and Idaho territories.

46. I used some excellent sure footed and good constitutioned Mountain Galloways in British Columbia this year which cost only 50 dollars a piece at Walla Walla.

47. The necessity of carrying oats for horses is one of the weakest points of the force. Without oats, horses soon fall out of condition, become weak, and knock up; grass alone is not sufficiently nourishing for horses accustomed to oats, when hard worked; some of the prairie grass is dry and without nutriment, in other parts it is rich and mingled with wild vetches.

48. It is absolutely necessary to grow oat crops as largely as possible in the North West. Every post should have some hundred acres under tillage for producing cereals and vegetables.

#### TRANSPORT.

49. The question of transport is one of considerable importance not only as regards the efficiency of the force, and its readiness to take the field at any moment, but also in respect of supplies of every kind, which at present, including oats, have to be carried many hundred miles, through a country which is only open for wheel transport for 6 or 7 months of the year. My suggestions on