

At the beginning of the year my command was stationed at Battleford, Prince Albert and Duck Lake, with headquarters at Battleford.

There were large numbers of Indians in the vicinity of these posts during the fore part of the year; those at Battleford were principally Crees and Assiniboines, and have their reserves in that neighborhood, but, owing to the scarcity of game, they were unable to obtain sufficient food and came frequently around the post for assistance which was given them by the Indian Agent. At Prince Albert and Duck Lake, in addition to the Crees that have their reserves in that vicinity, there were about 110 lodges of Sioux. About 20 lodges of these were said to be from Sitting Bull's band. It was thought at one time that the presence of so many Sioux would lead to trouble with the settlers, but I am happy to be able to state that these fears were not realized, as these Indians made themselves generally useful in the settlement by cutting wood for the mills and steamboat and doing any work they could get from the settlers. It is also a matter of congratulation that although these and the other Indians in that district were often in want, that not a single case of a breach of the peace was reported against them at any of the posts under my command. The American Sioux returned south as soon as spring opened, and those under White Cap returned to their reserve near Moose Wood, on the South Saskatchewan.

The conduct of the members of the force under my command has been very good, and breaches of discipline which occurred were of a trivial nature.

The wood required for the different stations under my command was supplied by members of the force for which they received 50 cents per cord in addition to their pay. At Battleford they also cut and delivered, during the winter, sufficient rails to fence thirty acres and ploughed fifty acres in the spring, which was sown with oats, they also ploughed about one acre of potatoes and other vegetables; these crops were all looking exceedingly well when I handed over the command of that post in August last.

I was granted leave to proceed to Ontario the beginning of April last, and left Inspector French in charge. I returned to duty again in the beginning of July and resumed command of the Battleford district. On the 24th of July, at the request of the Indian Commissioner, I proceeded to Fort Pitt to pay the annuities to the Indians in that locality. I arrived at Fort Pitt on the 26th and was engaged with the payments for four days. I found the Indians well disposed and becoming quite interested in their new modes of living as tillers of the soil. After finishing these payments I returned to Battleford to await the arrival of Superintendent Herchmer, who was to relieve me at Battleford. This officer arrived on the 4th of August, when I proceeded to hand over the command to him.

I left Battleford for Fort Walsh on the 21st of August, going by way of Edmonton and Fort Macleod, with the Indian Commissioner, who had requested me to accompany him owing to his having to carry a large sum of money for the payment of Indian annuities; I arrived at Fort Walsh on the 29th September, and was about taking over command of "E" Division, when I was ordered to proceed to the Missouri River on duty. I left Fort Walsh on the 5th of October, and on my arrival at the Missouri I received orders to go on to Ottawa, which I did, arriving in Ottawa on the 2nd of November.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES WALKER,

Superintendent, "E" Div., N.W.M.P.

The Commissioner,
North-West Mounted Police.