

HORSES.

Division.	Place.	Horses.	Colts.	Total.	Remarks.
A.	Fort Saskatchewan.....	11	3	14	Includes Brood Mares.
B.	Fort Walsh and Outposts.....	76	2	78	
C.	Fort McLeod.....	78	38	116	
D.	Shoal Lake and Outpost.....	32	1	33	
E.	Fort McLeod and Calgary.....	49	11	60	
E.	Battleford.....	27	27	
F.	Fort Walsh and Outpost.....	61	61	
	Total.....	334	55	389	

I beg to recommend that the following distribution of the force be made as soon as practicable in the spring, viz:—

Fort McLeod	2	Divisions
“ Walsh	2	“
“ Qu'Appelle	1	“
“ Saskatchewan and Battleford.....	1	“

with such outposts as may be thought necessary.

I think it advisable, on account of the large number of Indians who will undoubtedly flock back in the spring to both Cypress Hills and the Bow River country, that the force I have mentioned should be kept at these posts. It will be some time before these people can be settled down on their Reserves, and there will be a great deal of trouble making them do so. I understand that the Reserves in the Northern District are more in readiness for settlement.

At all the Indian payments in the North-West, the officers and men of the Police took over and attended to the distribution of the supplies, and at all places in Treaties Nos. 6 and 7, with the exception of Sounding Lake, Battleford and Port Pitt, they performed the duties of paymasters. In accordance with instructions received from the Department, an escort from Fort Walsh of two officers and thirty men proceeded to and attended the payments at Qu'Appelle under Superintendent Crozier, and another from the same post, consisting of one officer and fifteen men, under Inspector Dickens, attended the payments at Sounding Lake, supplementing another escort from Battleford under Inspector French; and another escort, consisting of one officer and fifteen men, under the command of Inspector Cotton, accompanied the Right Reverend Abbott Martin to Wood Mountain on his mission to the Sioux.

The uniform, clothing and boots supplied to the force last year were very good; the underclothing particularly so. I think that a light grey felt hat would be preferable to the helmet. Very few wear the latter unless obliged to. On trips they are almost invariably carried in the waggons, and get greatly damaged by the knocking about. The men always wear felt hats when they can. With the present kit the men are well clothed, and are in a position to turn out at any time of the year.

The concord harness is very good and looks as if it would last for a long time.

The “Murphy” heavy waggons and the express spring waggons are all very good and have stood the wear and tear they have been subjected to very well. Such of the old waggons, with which the force was supplied in 1874, as have been in use in the west are pretty well used up. I think it very advisable that the force should be well supplied with transport, so that a considerable portion of the men can be moved in waggons, instead of mounted, as suggested in my last report.

I beg leave to call the Minister's attention to Dr. Kittson's report upon the position of Fort Walsh in a sanitary point of view, so that steps may be taken as soon as