

the North-West Mounted Police, giving an account of a recent visit to the camp of the Blackfoot Indians.

"I have read Mr. Denny's report with much interest and have communicated a copy of it to the Queen.

"Her Majesty has commanded me to instruct you to inform the Chiefs of the tribe that Her Majesty has heard, with much satisfaction, of their faithful conduct in declining to take up arms with the Sioux Indians, and has been much gratified by this evidence of their loyalty and attachment. You will further apprise them that the Great Mother desires to assure them that she has always taken, and will continue to take, a lively interest in all that concerns their welfare, and trusts that nothing may at any time occur to disturb the friendly relations existing between Her Indian and White subjects."

Instructions have been given for the communication of this message from Her Majesty to the Indians.

The conveyance of prisoners and witnesses from distant parts of the North-West to Manitoba, has, in the past, been a source of considerable expense to the Police Force. During the past summer three escorts have been supplied for the conveyance of prisoners and witnesses from Forts Macleod and Walsh to Manitoba, a distance of about 700 miles. The recent organization of the Government of the North-West, which includes provision for the Administration of Justice within the territories, will, it is hoped, avoid similar expense to the Force in the future.

Representations having been made that, owing to the destruction of crops by hail storms, the inhabitants of the parish of St. Albert, near Edmonton, were likely to suffer great distress during the present winter, it became necessary, in order to avert the threatened famine, to consider what steps should be taken to afford relief, and also to prevent the breaking up of the settlement and dispersion of the inhabitants; instructions were accordingly given to the officer commanding the Police at Edmonton to invite the clergy of the several denominations to assist him as a committee for relieving distress, to such extent as the surplus supplies of the Mounted Police would permit, payment at cost price and expense of transport to be obtained where possible,—where payment not possible, the best available security to be taken for ultimate payment in furs or money.

The country between the Cypress Hills and the Rocky Mountains, which has hitherto been claimed by the Blackfeet as their hunting ground, has this year been encroached upon by other Indians and Half-breeds, causing much irritation among the Blackfeet, who have called upon the Police to protect them in maintaining their rights to their territory, saying that if they were not restrained by the presence of the Police, they would make war upon the intruders.

The correspondence on this subject has been submitted to the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Territories, in order that it may receive the consideration of the North-West Council, in connection with the adoption of rules for hunting and preserving the buffalo from extinction.

The following extract from Report of the Assistant Commissioner, dated 30th May last, is evidence of the friendly relations existing between the Indians and the Police.

"I have the honor to report, for the information of the Minister of Justice, that when I was at Cypress Hills last week, a Piegan Indian came to Fort Walsh, and reported that a Blood Indian ("Pox," or "Woman's Breast,") for whom I have a warrant for the murder of his wife near Fort MacLeod, in the spring of 1875, was in a Cree camp about 30 miles from Fort Walsh. I immediately dispatched Sub-Inspector Welch, who knew the Indian "Pox," and four men to arrest him. Mr. Welch returned the next morning and reported that the Chief of the Cree Camp, "Little Black Bear," told him that the Blood Indian (Pox) had been in his camp, but had left the previous day. The "Little Black Bear," however, expected him back in a few days, when he would send in and inform the Police. "Little Black Bear" further promised Mr. Welch that he would have a "big feast" and a dance in his camp when the Indian Pox returned, so as to detain him in his camp till the police