

## APPENDIX B B.

ANNUAL REPORT OF VETERINARY STAFF SERGEANT SWEETAPPLE,  
"F" DIVISION, 1890.

PRINCE ALBERT, 30th November, 1890.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year ended 30th November, 1890.

As usual, we have had a great deal of sickness and loss, more particularly among our young horses, and horses that had not properly recovered from previous disease.

This is largely due to the grass or grasses, and can be attributed to two causes.

In the first place, slough grass grows very quickly and luxuriantly; consequently it is very succulent, possessing large quantities of water at the expense of some of the constituents necessary for the building up and maintaining in a proper state of health of the different tissues of the animal body.

In the second place, I believe there is a species of plant or grass possessing narcotic properties, which is particularly active in August and September, and produces a disease, the symptoms of which closely resemble typhoid fever in many respects; but, from a further study and from a closer examination, both in regard to our own horses and other animals in the district, I am quite convinced it can be attributed to the above cause.

The water from the river must be free from any contagious matter after being exposed, though even for a short time, to the purifying influence of the atmosphere; and our well water, though slightly alkaline, has no injurious effects.

Accidental injuries are rare, and as our stables are excellent we are entirely free from the many diseases due to improper ventilation.

Our young horses were mouthed, and thoroughly understood the use of the bit, and were accustomed to the saddle before being ridden, a very great improvement on breaking and teaching use of bit afterwards.

I would beg to recommend that all the young horses be broken at Regina, and not transferred until they are at least five years old.

I shall also recommend that horses be sent to this division, at least in the autumn, as they undoubtedly stand the winter much better than the summer and autumn months.

I also prefer doing away with the shoeing of young horses as much as possible, where the soil is free from gravel.

There was a slight outbreak of anthrax among cattle in the early summer, due to the dampness of the season and luxuriant growth of grass.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

C. H. SWEETAPPLE, V.S.,  
*Veterinary Staff Sergeant.*

The Commissioner N.-W. M. Police,  
Regina.