

Along the southern part of the territories, in addition to their other duties, the patrols have a great deal of hard work in endeavouring to keep back the droves of United States cattle constantly being forced across our border. This uses up a great many of our best horses, and worries our patrols in consequence; as these cattle promptly come back, it is rather a useless task. If the American ranchers were at once made to understand that they cannot dump Texas cattle into Canada at their pleasure, the practice would soon be stopped, except in rare cases when storms cause cattle to drift north.

The patrols along the frontier are particularly vigilant in looking after smugglers.

The taking of the census in April last occasioned a house-to-house visit, which was very advantageous as it has brought all the settlers under the immediate observation of the police, and which will from time to time expedite any individual inquiries we may be called upon to make. The following is the result of the census as taken by the police, exclusive of Indians:—

District.	POPULATION.			Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.
	White.	H-Breed.	Total.			
Assiniboia	33,925	867	34,792	34,843	90,575	76,864
Alberta	26,185	2,198	28,383	42,257	168,598	45,816
Saskatchewan	5,763	4,168	9,931	6,541	20,614	6,422
Total:	65,873	7,633	73,506	83,641	288,787	129,102

The result of the patrol system has been as usual mainly deterrent, and very few serious breaches of the law have occurred, and these have, as a rule, been brought to justice, while south of the line, shooting and other outrages are very frequent indeed.

In February last some very heavy patrol work was thrown on us. Two Americans named Laird and Elliott and an English lad whom they had hired, arrived at Medicine Hat with a car containing 9 horses, etc., which they had had entered as "settlers effects" for Calgary. Their only effects were rifles, revolvers, and saddles. On arrival at Medicine Hat they unloaded to feed and water, and obtained permission from the C. P. R. agent to ride round the country with a view of settling, instead of going on to Calgary. They were absent several days when one returned stating that they would be back in a couple of days or so. Meanwhile they traded a saddle for a jumper, and struck south, selling a horse (afterwards seized) en route. The C. P. R. reported to the police after a few days, and patrols were sent out in the middle of winter, starting from Maple Creek and Lethbridge to hunt them up. Both patrols met near Kennedy's Old Post on the boundary, when they discovered the outfit at a rancher's just across the line, one of the men having his foot so badly frozen that it was afterwards partly amputated. They declined to return. They gave no satisfactory account of themselves to either the police or U. S. customs, who gave us every assistance, and their extraordinary trip at such a season, they being poorly clad, is a mystery. Inquiries at the point at Minnesota where they loaded proved fruitless.

I have always thought that they started out with the idea of committing train robbery, or some other extensive depredation, and were frustrated on account of wrong information, the C. P. R. being much further from the boundary than they expected, and that they did not know much about the police.

I have officially requested the custom authorities to wire us if any more such settlers enter at frontier posts. If, in this case, the C. P. R., had reported to the police at once, they would have been watched while pretending to look for land and would have been arrested if they attempted to strike south.

In the west a great deal of patrolling has been done, with a view of arresting cattle thieves, and while at times a good many of these depredations are undoubtedly committed by Indians, I regret to say that the larger proportion is done by white settlers.