

I found that all furs, robes, &c., collected at Portras', Bonneau and Bellegarde villages are taken either to Poplar River or Buford for trade. I had strong reason to suspect that liquor (which can be easily obtained from Buford, 75 miles from Bellegarde) was brought to these villages; and, accordingly, in my letter of 18th January to the Assistant Commissioner, I recommended that a small detachment should be posted as a look-out in that vicinity to watch the Buford trails and prevent such illegal practices.

EAST END OF WOOD MOUNTAIN.

Commencing about 30 miles east from this post; when on the above journey, as far as the Big Muddy River, I found good hard wood timber in large quantities, from which, I believe, axle, spoke, double and single tree, and waggon-pole timber could be obtained, of quite as good a quality as that at present imported for the use of the force.

I am of opinion that the eastern end of this mountain, like this immediate section, is very fertile, and would produce abundantly. The hay and pasture land is also of a superior quality.

2ND MARCH—INDIAN EXCITEMENT.

This day the neighborhood was excited by a small disturbance, occasioned by a sub-constable striking an Indian and putting him out of the fort, for obstructing him at his work and attacking him with a stick of wood.

The Sioux, who numbered about 200 lodges (encamped a short distance from the post) were at first quite excited, and a few of them proposed to attack the post.

I made all possible arrangements to meet any action they might take, and then sent for the head men of the camp. After a short council I effected a reconciliation, at the same time strongly pointing out to them how much their young man was in fault, as well as themselves for becoming so excited about so small a disturbance or personal quarrel. I also reprimanded the sub-constable.

The Half-breeds in this vicinity, on hearing the rumour that the Sioux were going to attack the post, behaved in a loyal and most praiseworthy manner, taking most effectual measures to render me every assistance that lay in their power.

With the exception of the above instance the conduct of the Sioux during the winter was uniformly peaceable and satisfactory in every respect.

30TH MARCH.

S. C's. Cusick and Webb arrived here from Fort Walsh with beef cattle.

In crossing the White Mud River, on 26th inst., the high flood carried away their waggon with arms, ammunition, bedding, overcoats, provisions, &c., &c., and it was with difficulty that they saved either themselves or the horses.

Near Pinto Horse Butte one of their horses (B 33) stuck in the snow and died, they being themselves nearly frozen and unable to extricate him.

FARM.

There has been cultivated about 3 of acres vegetables, 1 acre of barley and 12 acres of oats.

The yield for the first breaking of the sod was exceedingly good, and has proved to Whites, Half-breeds and Indians alike, the fertility of Wood Mountain.

1ST APRIL.—MAIL CONTRACT.

Finding that the mail service between this post and Fort Walsh was using up the horses very fast, I let a contract for a bi-monthly mail, which J. Morin accepted