

Indians. I told the chief I knew he had the stolen horses in the camp and had come to get them. He said he did not think his young men would give them up, and that the Americans were very strong, and would not allow any white man to harm them. I told him we could not allow anyone to steal horses on this side of the line, and that he should have to give an answer before I left the lodge. He then said, "when you come in the morning, I will hand you over every one of them." I went in the morning and they handed me over all they could find.

"It would have been impossible for me, with only four men, to have made any arrests; besides, it would have been difficult to have found the guilty parties. However, I gave them a good lecture, and they promised to behave themselves in future."

What an example of moral force! An officer with only five men goes into a camp of a thousand or more warlike Indians, compels them to deliver up stolen property, and then lectures them about the consequences if they steal any more.

An intelligent Ojibbeway trader told Father Scollen, an early missionary among the Blackfeet and Crees that the change after the coming of the police was wonderful. "Before the Queen's government came," he said, "we were never safe, and now I can sleep in my tent anywhere, and have no fear. I can go to the Blackfeet, and Cree camps and they treat me as a friend."

The year 1879 was a most anxious time for the police. The Plain Indians were left without any food or resources. In some cases they went over to United States territory and hunted, for there were still buffalo south of the boundary line. The American authorities, however, ordered them to return, and so they had to face starvation. "The Blackfoot tribes," we read, "when visited in 1879, were found to be in a most pitiable plight. The old and infirm had largely perished, strong young braves were reduced to skeletons, their ponies traded for food, their dogs eaten; they were dependent for sustenance on what gophers, mice, and other small ground animals they could find." In the year referred to, E. H. Maunsell found that he had 59 out of a bunch of 133 cattle. The Indians had taken the pioneer rancher's cattle as a gift from the Great Spirit. Other ranchmen had suffered equally or worse. This called for stern measures from the police. A case where Indians were caught red-handed with fresh meat killed on the prairie, is told by Dr. MacRae in his "History of Alberta." The story is from a report by Supt. Steele, then in command of Macleod district:

"A party of police under Staff-Sergeant Hilliard, left the Stand Off detachment soon after dark, to intercept a band of whiskey smugglers that our scouts had located about ten miles up the river. Soon after the police party started they separated. Alexander and Ryan being instructed to scout down the river and cross at the Cochrane's crossing. They then ascended to the high land at the other side, all the time on the alert to catch a glimpse of the whiskey smugglers. Soon after reaching the high ground, Alexander caught sight of something moving in the distance, which on nearer approach proved to be horsemen with two pack animals. The constables immediately gave chase at full gallop, and on coming up with the fugitives discovered them to be Indians with fresh-killed meat.

"As they galloped up to make the arrest, one of the Indians threw his rifle into the hollow of his arm, pointing it at Alexander, and as the constable dashed in to seize him, fired point blank at his head, the bullet taking effect in the neck, Ryan, seeing Alexander reel in his saddle and imagining him to be seriously injured, if not killed, drew his revolver and fired on the Indian, who returned it, one bullet passing very close to Ryan's head, while one of Ryan's shots struck the Indian in the back, passing through his lungs and coming out at his left breast."

Neither of the shot wounds proved serious, and both men were able to go around in a few days. The incident shows the danger that these guardians of the law were frequently exposed to in the discharge of patrol duties.

One of the principal reasons for the success of the redcoats among the In-

dians was the fact that they recognized that the Indians had rights in the Westland. In Quebec and New England, in Ohio and Arizona, in Mexico and Minnesota, every forward step of settlement has been marked by bloodshed and massacres that are untellable in horror. How the Royal North West Mounted Police averted serious trouble and yet showed the iron hand and iron nerve is well exemplified in the story of Red Crow, Chief of the Blood Indians, as told by Hayden in his "Riders of the Plains":

"Two members of Red Crow's band were wanted on a serious charge of cattle killing. 'Prairie Chicken Old Man' being the picturesque name of one. Both men were known to be in the Blackfoot camp in the vicinity of Stand Off, and a sergeant and constable were sent out to arrest them. With all promptitude they

marched straight to the encampment. Having secured their prisoners they were about to lead them away, when their howls brought a number of squaws and young braves to the spot. There was a scuffle, and the police found their captives forcibly wrested from them. In the excitement the youthful constable drew his revolver, and a worse riot would have been precipitated had not the sergeant immediately ordered him to replace the weapon.

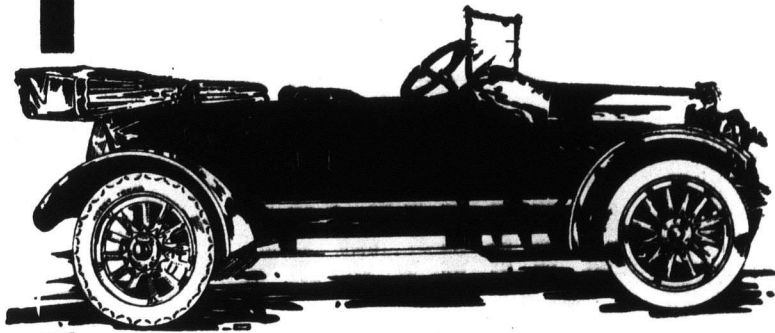
"Recognizing that it was more discreet to retire for the time being, the policemen returned to Fort Macleod to report to Supt. Steele. That officer approved of their action in the circumstances, but he had no intention of allowing the Indians to defy him. He accordingly ordered Inspector Wood, Dr. S. M. Fraser, and a non-commissioned officer with twenty troopers to proceed

at once to the camp and demand the surrender of the two men. With them went that faithful ally, Jerry Potts, the half-breed interpreter.

"The little company marched out to within a mile or so of the camp, which lay on the other side of some low hills. Then Potts was sent forward to make known that Supt. Steele required both the men previously arrested and those who had aided and abetted their release. In due time the interpreter returned to announce that Red Crow was smoking his pipe, and would think the matter over. The chief sent word also that his young braves were very excited, a Sundance was being held, and they were getting out of hand. In a word the old Indian game of "bluff" was being tried. To this Inspector Wood replied curtly: 'Tell Red Crow that we must have the two men wanted and those who helped

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