
 REPORT OF SURGEON ROBERT MILLER.

 BATTLEFORD,³N.W.T., 23rd November, 1880.

SIR,—Pursuant to instructions I have the honor to report for your information the following:—

On the 18th January I left Shoal Lake for Qu'Appelle, news having arrived of the severe illness of Constable MacDougall; arriving at the latter place on the 21st, I found Constable MacDougall suffering from a severe attack of erysipelas of the face. I remained in attendance one week, the patient being then convalescent.

During the winter the health of the men at Shoal Lake was very good. There were some cases of diarrhoea, and the usual affections incident to severely cold weather—frost-bites, bronchitis and rheumatism.

On the eve of departure from Shoal Lake, in July, with Superintendent Herchmer, I found it necessary to leave Constable Wilson behind, as he was rendered unfit for travel by chronic rheumatism; medicines and instructions were left in competent hands.

Throughout the trip from Shoal Lake to Battleford, the general health of officers and men was excellent.

In conjunction with Hospital-Sergeant Holmes, I made out, at Qu'Appelle, a requisition of medicines and medical comforts for Superintendent Walsh's command. These medicines, etc., have arrived at Qu'Appelle, together with all that was useful in the old Swan River supply.

The new quarters of the detachment at Prince Albert are a great improvement on the old, being warm and comfortable; the general health of the men is excellent.

I accompanied Superintendent Herchmer to Fort Saskatchewan, and find that there is a great lack of medicine and no hospital. In the event of an epidemic, or even one case of severe illness, the barrack sleeping room will be found a very inadequate place for the proper treatment of the patients or patient.

Medicines were to have been sent to Fort Saskatchewan from the south. Hospital-Sergeant Herchmer informs me that none have arrived; my own stock at Battleford is too meagre to admit of my supplying him with but very few.

The guard room at Fort Saskatchewan is badly built and very deficient in ventilation; another larger and better building is much needed.

There have been some cases of rheumatism and quinsy during the early part of the winter, but no man was off duty more than four or five days; one case of erysipelas in an employed man.

At this station also, there is no hospital; there is a dispensary, that is all.

The neighborhood of Battleford is healthy. The water is very hard, causing amongst middle-aged residents a tendency to gravel.

A well inside the barrack square would be a great boon, as either river, North Saskatchewan or Battle River, is over half a mile from barracks.

I have treated a number of cases of sickness amongst the Indians, which will be duly reported to the Indian Commissioner.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Very respectfully yours,

ROBERT MILLER,

Surgeon N.W.M.P.

Lieut.-Colonel IRVINE,
Commissioner North-West Mounted Police,
Fort Walsh, N.W.T.

Forwarded

A. G. IRVINE,

Commissioner.