

dary line) had captured O'Donoghue and his "Generals," and so the manoeuvres of the Fenians and their plans to capture Manitoba came to nothing.

Lieutenant-Governor Archibald had sent Lieutenant Butler (afterwards General Sir William, author of "The Great Lone Land") to inquire into the situation of the outlying districts. In the Governor's instructions he stated that for the last two years reports had been coming in of great disorder along the line of the Saskatchewan, and that he believed it would be necessary to have a small body of troops sent to the forts of the Hudson's Bay Company to assist in maintaining peace and order. Lieutenant Butler travelled through the West and made a careful investigation. He reported murder and rapine, and the danger of an Indian war with the white race.

There was correspondence with Mr. Archibald and with Mr. Morris during their terms of office. The Adjutant-General, Colonel Robertson Ross, made his report, and to all of these Sir John Macdonald gave careful consideration and started the organisation of a force—police in regard to discipline, although armed soldiers—and so the famous North-West Mounted Police sprang into existence. An Act was passed instituting the force. The number named was three hundred.

Colonel French, of the Royal Artillery, who had been in command of the School of Gunnery at Kingston, was offered and accepted command as Commissioner, and Colonel Macleod, who was in England, received a cable to return as Assistant Commissioner.

Lieutenant-Governor Morris, in his despatches, repeatedly urged sending on the force, and in July of 1873, he reported the horrible Cypress Hills massacre. The British Minister at Washington also reported the case.

In the spring fifty-five\* Assiniboine Indians were killed by United States borderers, whisky traders, who, in violation of the laws of both countries, were selling their drugs to the natives. The body of the chief was treated with peculiar barbarity, it having been impaled on a stake and then placed on a high hill.

Later it was found that these Assiniboine Indians had been suspected of having stolen horses. The traders followed a trail as far as Milk River, then went on to Farewell's trading post in the Cypress Hills, where these Indians were camped, then concealing themselves in a coulée opened fire right into the lodges of the Indians, killing men, women, and children.

This affair quickened the organisation of the force. Lieutenant-Governor Morris wrote to the Minister of the Interior that he "believed the Privy Council had yet not fully realised the magnitude of the task that lay before the police in the creation of the institution of civilisation in the North-West, in the suppression of crime there and in the maintenance of peaceful relations with the fierce tribes of the vast prairies beyond Manitoba."

The organisation was well under way when the changes of Government took place, but the new Premier, the Honourable Alexander MacKenzie, and his Ministers continued the work of the old regime in pushing forward the police.

One hundred and fifty mounted police were sent to Fort Garry, but the Governor sent a despatch stating that such a number was quite inadequate, and a second contingent was sent up. War had broken out between the Crees and the Blackfoot. The Americans also had a conflict with the Blackfoot, and deaths occurred on both sides. The Assiniboines to avenge the late murders burned two posts of the traders and

\*The first despatch gave the number as twenty-six. Later reports gave fifty-five. Colonel Irvine places the number at about thirty-six.