

was in connection with the arrest of a prisoner, named "Bull Elk," a Blackfoot Indian, on the charge of shooting with intent to kill; the Indians endeavoring to offer resistance to the detachment first sent out to make the arrest. Prompt steps were, however, taken by the officer commanding at McLeod, Superintendent Crozier, who himself proceeded with every available man at his command to reinforce the detachment at the Blackfoot Crossing. "Bull Elk" was arrested and committed for trial and every precaution taken to meet any resistance that might be offered by the Indians. It was pointed out to them in the plainest possible manner that law and order were to be carried out, that the police were in the country to do this and that any attempt at resistance on their part would be punished as it deserved. Seeing the determination on the part of the police to carry out the letter of the law, and finding that a determined force was at hand with which to enforce strict obedience and respect, even should it be found necessary to resort to the most extreme measures, the Indians submitted to the arrest of "Bull Elk," being forcibly reminded in so doing that resistance on their part would not be tolerated for a moment, or in any way allowed to interfere with the impartial administration of justice, in the case of Indians and white men alike.

Although I had every reason to be perfectly satisfied with the determined steps taken by Superintendent Crozier, I nevertheless deemed it advisable to reinforce the strength of Fort McLeod by thirty non-commissioned officers and men. I therefore ordered a detachment of that number to proceed from Fort Walsh to Fort McLeod with all possible despatch. My orders in this respect were most promptly carried out, and as I previously informed you this action had beyond all possible doubt a most salutary effect upon the Indian mind.

On the 1st of May, before the arrival of the recruits, Big Bear (then a non-treaty chief) reached Fort Walsh. He came in ahead of his followers, all of whom, numbering some 130 lodges were, he informed me, *en route*. I at once told this chief, that I did not wish his people to come in the vicinity of the Fort, and also that he would receive no aid from the Government. I directed him to a place known as the "Lake," where they could subsist by fishing.

This Big Bear did, and for some time I heard nothing further from him; later on, however, I received information that councils were being held daily in his camp, and further that the result of these councils, was that he and his followers had decided to visit Fort Walsh, make exorbitant demands for provisions, and in case of their being refused, to help themselves. I considered it advisable, thereupon, to move all the Indian supplies inside the Fort; these supplies had previously been stored inside a building in the village rented by the Indian Department. I also took over the ammunition of T. C. Power & Bros., the only traders at Fort Walsh, and placed it in our magazine.

I confined all the men to barracks, had the 7 pounder mountain guns placed in position in the bastions, and made all arrangements to have the force at my command ready for any emergency. On the 14th, Big Bear with 150 bucks, all armed, arrived at the Fort. By runners going to his camp, Big Bear was kept informed of the action that had been taken, the effect of which proved most beneficial.

The Indians accompanying him conducted themselves in an orderly manner and made most civil speeches. I held a council with Big Bear, and his people inside the Fort, allowing no man to come in armed, and distinctly impressed on them, that as non-treaty Indians they had no claims whatever on the consideration of the Government.

The demands made for ammunition during the council with me were refused. I feel justified in saying that my treatment of Big Bear at this time had a most satisfactory effect, showing him, that he as a non-treaty Indian would not obtain assistance from the Government, and any attempt of his to obtain such by force must prove entirely futile.

On the 4th May, Inspector Macdonell, the officer commanding at Wood Mountain, received a report from Mr. Legarrie, trader, who had just returned from Fort Buford, U. S., in which Inspector Macdonnell was informed that on the evening of