

shelter for the horses, the men and the officers. Elk, deer and buffalo provided an abundant supply of meat, and the regimental tailors manufactured fur clothing from buffalo robes for winter weather. Long saddle horse patrols were made throughout the district with the immediate aim of discouraging the liquor traffic with Indians, but also with the object of bringing the Queen's law to this remote sector of the new territories.

Perhaps it was Macleod's innate Scottish regard for truth and justice, and perhaps it was his experience as a lawyer and soldier which led him to a policy of humane dealing with the Indian tribes. In any event, the methods were effective in the orderly establishment of Canadian rule throughout the vast territories under his command.

Major General, Sir Sam Steele, one of the NWMP "originals", in his *Forty Years in Canada* (Russell Lang, 1915), writes of Macleod's relations with the Indians in these terms:

"I doubt if anyone ever had such influence with them, and, as a matter of fact, it could not be otherwise. He kept his place, never accepted a present, never gave one, and was respected by them all the more for it, his word being law from the time he appeared among them."

On New Year's Day, 1876, Macleod resigned from the Force to become the stipendiary magistrate in the Bow River Judicial District — Calgary and Macleod. Supt. A. G. Irvine took over as assistant commissioner. However, on July 20, after several months of controversial correspondence with Ottawa, Commissioner French resigned. As Turner wrote:

"He had decided to leave what was now to him an uncongenial post and return to the Imperial service. Ever since his first view of the headquarters site and buildings at Swan



**Crowfoot, leader of the Blackfoot Confederacy.**

River in 1874, his relations with government authorities had been more or less strained. But he had the satisfaction of knowing he had accomplished a difficult task and had done it well.

"By order-in-council of July 20, 1876, James Farquharson Macleod, C.M.G., was appointed in his place.

"Commissioner Macleod, revered and respected by whites and Indians on both sides of the international boundary, was now the outstanding figure in the Canadian West. He had proven himself to be an efficient administrator, a natural diplomat, a sound disciplinarian and a perfect