

APPENDIX D.

NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE.

To The Hon. R. W. SCOTT,
Secretary of State,
Ottawa.

By Order in Council of the 20th April, 1876, the control and management of the North-West Mounted Police was transferred from the Department of Justice to the Department of the Secretary of State.

By Order in Council of 20th July, 1876 Lieut.-Colonel James Farquharson MacLeod, C. M. G. was appointed to succeed Lieut.-Colonel French, as Commissioner of Police.

In July an escort of eighty-two men was detailed to accompany the Lieutenant Governor of the North West Territories on his mission to Forts Carleton and Pitt, in connection with the making of a treaty with the Cree Indians.

In consequence of the Indians in the adjoining Territory of Montana being engaged during the past summer in conflict with the United States troops, it was considered necessary, as a precautionary measure, to increase the force at Forts Macleod and Walsh (Cypress Hills); one hundred men were accordingly ordered there from the northern posts. Four seven pounder guns were also purchased from the Militia Department and forwarded, together with a supply of ammunition, to Fort Walsh. Two nine pounder field guns had previously been supplied to Fort Macleod.

The massing of the Force at these posts near the frontier has no doubt secured tranquility in that section of the Territory and prevented the American Indians from using Canadian soil as a base of operations for prosecuting the war with the United States troops.

On the 22nd August the following report of Sub-Inspector Denny was received from the Assistant Commissioner.

"According to orders received on July 8th to proceed to the Blackfoot camp for the prisoner 'Nataya,' I left Bow River on the above mentioned date and found the Blackfeet camped about thirty miles above the mouth of Red Deer River, that being about two hundred miles north-east of Elbow River.

"After having secured the prisoner I was detained in camp by a council called by the principal Blackfeet Chiefs, who invited me to their meeting.

"They told me that they were very glad we had arrived, as at that time they were in a very unsettled state, owing to communications that had passed between the Blackfoot nation, including Blood Indians and Piegans, and the Sioux from across the line.

"About a month ago the Sioux sent a message to the Blackfoot Camp with a piece of tobacco, which the Blackfoot Chief showed me. The messenger told the Blackfeet, from the Sioux, that the tobacco was sent them to smoke if they were willing to come across the line and join the Sioux in fighting the Crow Indians, and other tribes with whom they were at war, and also the Americans whom they were fighting at the same time.

"The Sioux promised to give the Blackfeet, if they would join them, plenty of horses and mules they had captured from the Americans; they also told the Blackfeet that they had plenty of white women, whom they had taken prisoners, and they promised to give them to the Blackfeet if they would join them.