

We had a pleasant outing with an old friend, Alvin Stephenson, formerly of Huntsville, who took us to see the drill of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, and a view of the scaffold where Riel paid the extreme penalty for the murder of Scott. We were introduced to the drilling of the Mounted Police, and saw a spectacle which impressed itself upon us. Describing the situation: there is a large circle drawn up; the men on horses form the circle, the drill sergeant is in the centre with a lash computed at anywhere from ten to fifteen feet long, and he was putting these men through their exercises on horseback. There was one special man, the last one, who seemed to be either deaf or careless, stupid, or not in his right mind, and every order that the drill sergeant gave seemed to be entirely ignored, when the drill sergeant became somewhat angry and applied the whip pretty freely, until the lash parted from the handle, and there was a general uproar, all because that one man was disobedient. We discovered the fact that the Northwest Mounted Police compared favorably with any of His Majesty's soldiers in obedience, in service, in honor. When they were sent on an errand, it was a pretty certain thing that they accomplished their purpose.

After dinner, we took train for Swift Current, arriving there to meet our son who had a place provided for us in a hotel for the night, and further, he had secured a house for our accommodation while we would stop with him for a couple of weeks, in their young rising town. Into this we entered the next day, and kept house; my wife's brother, his wife, my wife and myself with my son. Having remained there and having had some recreation, we went out into the prairies to see the cattle dipped to cleanse them from a disease called the Mange. The process was continued in this way: a stream of water, after being heated, filled a tank that was connected with a cattle yard through which one after the other, these cattle were caused to pass and plunge into this vat of the prepared liquid and occasionally a large animal would spread considerable of this liquid in different directions, and some of the onlookers would get a dip which pro-