

number of Indians camped at that time in this vicinity, who were interviewed by yourself and the Indian Commissioner, also that foot and gun recruit drill commenced on the 21th June, and was continued daily, excepting when interfered with by other important duties, until the cold weather set in. I am glad to be able to inform you that the advancement of the recruits in the different branches of instruction has been creditable.

The Assistant Commissioner left this post on a tour of inspection, *via* Forts Macleod and Saskatchewan, for the Northern District on the 10th July, when I assumed command here.

On the 11th July Lieut. Tillson, of the U.S.A., arrived with a despatch addressed to you, from General Miles. This officer, two days afterwards, left this post for Wood Mountain. The nature of his duty he did not communicate to me, further than that he had been instructed to find out if it were possible in any way to have deserters from the American Army to this country, returned, as his Government was anxious to check desertion, which was presumed would be frequent, owing to the close proximity of Fort Assiniboine to the International Boundary Line, and that he was the bearer of the despatch above mentioned, all of which I reported at the time.

I reported to you an interview I had with a Cree Indian, brother of Big Skye, an Indian Chief, relative to a supposed council between Big Bear, Canadian Chief, and the Sioux, in which Big Bear made overtures to the Sioux to form an alliance against the whites in this country, the first point of attack being this post. As I informed you I questioned the man in the most searching manner when he first brought in the report, and when subsequently he repeated it he certainly seemed to me to be speaking truthfully; but on having gained information from other reliable sources, I learned there was little or no truth in the rumor. I give this as an instance of the many stories one hears, and of the difficulty in believing even those upon whom you might imagine reliance could be placed.

During the month of July large camps of Indians stopped at the post, consisting principally of Bloods, Blackfeet and Crees, to all of whom provisions had to be given, as there were few buffalo then in the country; those from the west, north and east, were generally quite destitute of food, the buffalo being in the neighborhood of the Bear Paw Mountains, south of the Boundary Line, where nearly all the Indians that generally inhabit this section of the country were gathered.

During last July a large camp of Bloods, some 300 lodges, arrived here and held their annual "Sun Dance." They had been hunting before their arrival, I believe, south of this, and had with them a considerable quantity of moat, which they informed me was to have lasted them until after they had received their annual payments; but as they remained here for some time, and as other Indians arrived without provisions they gave a great deal away; from here I understand they went to Fort Macleod.

You arrived here from Fort Macleod on the 29th July and took over the command.

On the 7th August I was ordered by you to proceed with a detachment to overtake a party that had left this post the day previous under command of Inspector Antrobus, for Qu'Appelle. On the evening of the same day I overtook the party and proceeded in command of the detachment, consisting of 2 officers, 30 N.-C. officers and men and 36 horses, to Qu'Appelle, where escort and general duty was to be performed during the payment of the Indians at that point. I arrived there on the 16th of August, having been nine days on the march; remained there until the 30th of that month, when the Agent finished paying the Indians. I left Qu'Appelle with the detachment, for this post, on the morning of the above date, with Indian Agent Macdonald, and arrived here on the morning of the 7th September; there were here on our arrival as many as 500 Lodges of Assiniboines and Crees who had assembled to receive their annual pay on the 8th of the month.

On the 8th of September the first case of fever, commonly known as mountain fever, occurred, which subsequently proved fatal in several instances among the people of the settlement about the post, and which attached a number of members of