

that they went in this large party, as they were afraid the Crees would attack them, but that they intended to do what I told them.

They did go straight to the fort and behaved themselves quietly. Col. Irvine sent out to the Cree camp, but they could not recover their horses, the Bloods saying the Crees had cached them.

The Bloods took some tobacco from their head chief and gave it to Pie-a-Pot, the Cree chief, asking him to make peace. He threw the tobacco in the fire, saying he would not make peace. This insulted them, and returning to Walsh they saddled up their horses during the night and started back. Some young men killed an old Cree as they were going out. On their return, they came in here and told me the whole of their story. They stated that they had seen their horses among the Cree horses, but the Crees would not give them up, and they returned without any horses at all.

They said that the night they left Cypress word was sent to them that a large band of Crees was coming down that night to make a raid on them, and they, therefore, started. The Cree that was killed tried to stop them, and threatened to take the scalp of one of them. One of the young men then shot him. They were greatly disappointed at the result of their trip, and after they returned were very unsettled. I am glad to say that during this time none of the Blackfeet or other Indians left their reserves; they behaved well. Before the return of this party I organized a small force of Indian police on the Blood Reserve, and I found them very useful in bringing in stolen horses, assisting at the rationing, and many other ways. I gave them extra rations for their work, and I think that eventually they might be organized into a regular force, as they are among the South Piegans, where a regular force is kept up, the men being paid so much per month, and wearing uniforms to distinguish them. From what I have heard, this force is a success, and when stolen horses are in the camp, or an arrest is to be made, they do that work well.

It might be well to organize some such force among the larger of these tribes, particularly the Bloods, as stolen horses are often brought into the camp, and without the help of the Indians it is nearly impossible to find them. The few I employed I found very useful in a great many ways, and I think that if about ten or fifteen were paid for their work, they would render us great assistance in ways that only Indians knowing what goes on in the camp could. The Bloods and Blackfeet have been anxious to have their reserves laid out. This has now been done as far as the Bloods, Piegans, Sarcees and Stoneys are concerned. The Blackfoot Reserve is yet unsettled, and the longer it is delayed, the more difficult it will be to settle, as no release has yet been taken from the Blackfoot tribe, of the portion of the reserve that would have fallen to the Bloods and Sarcees had the Government not given them reserves elsewhere. There are always people who make it their business to tell the Indians how valuable their land will be along the line of railroad, and as the reserve at present runs down to the mouth of the Red Deer River, and the Blackfeet consider it belongs to them, the longer the transfer is delayed, the more difficult it will be to make. It should be made, and the land comprising the reserve surveyed as soon as possible. Commissioners should be appointed to arrange with the Blackfeet and Bloods, as it is likely to be a delicate matter to adjust.

The Blackfeet and other Indians along the line of railroad have shown no signs of being displeased at the railroad running through the country, but only show curiosity, which is to be expected, as they are totally ignorant of what a railroad is.

I have on many occasions spoken to the Blackfeet on this subject, and have been asked many questions. I have pointed out to them the advantage they will derive from the road running near them, and they appear satisfied. The greatest danger will be when the road is building, the men employed on the road mixing much with the Indians, and as the line will run very near the Crossing, it would be well to have police detachments on or close to the reserve.

Many parties of surveyors and engineers have been passing through the Blackfoot Reserve, and in some cases remained several days on the reserve, but in no instance have the Indians shown themselves unfriendly, and no complaints have been