



Red Crow, head of the Bloods.

own base. The manager was away, but they were very welcome.

"It was an anticlimax. Actually, long before Macleod and his men drew near the ill-reputed fort, a party of buffalo hunters had warned the traders that a large party of horsemen wearing red coats was approaching. The style of trading had been altered accordingly, and a thorough police search of the building revealed no liquor.

"From Whoop-Up, Jerry Potts (the Force's scout) led Divisions "B", "C" and "F" to a place on the Oldman River which he advised would be suitable for a permanent police post. There at ten o'clock on the morning of October 13, Macleod ordered the troops to make camp."⁴

T. Morris Longstreth in *The Silent Force* (Century Co. — 1927) describes picturesquely Macleod's situation at Fort Macleod in 1874:

"Macleod was one of the best-looking men of the time. Erect, well

proportioned, slightly under six feet with no ounce of superfluous flesh, he presented a figure that his soldiers admired, a bearing that his enemies respected. His experience with Wolseley's expedition in 1870, and his training for the law, had fitted him for the dual task of subduing a vast region and then ruling it. With his merest suggestion of an army he now set about accomplishing this feat; a feat which, only a few days' ride to the south, regiment after regiment of American soldiers were failing to accomplish. That he succeeded is one of Canada's coups de maître; because his success came with the mysterious ease of the master, it led the superficial into thinking that there was nothing to do. But there was everything to do, and at once, and with the craft of utter wisdom where one misstep might mean annihilation."

By Christmas, 1874, the mud-daubed log fort had been built, providing