

because of the whim or selfish caprice of one or a few men, I said, if any wish to remain behind let them do so, but why should they keep back all the others. "Low Dog" said in reply: "There are people in the camp now who want to go, as I before told you, I want to go and I will go, send your interpreter with me to the camp that he may bear witness that I am telling the truth, when I repeat what you have told me, and I will take away so many lodges that the rest will be bound to follow." I felt now that not only would the influence of "Sitting Bull" be broken but that there would be such dissension in the camp, and so many people would follow the lead of "Low Dog," that the few remaining, including Sitting Bull would, by force of circumstances, be compelled to go with them. My anticipations have been so far realized that with the exception of a few individuals, the camp left here with the full determination of surrendering. On the morning of the 11th December they broke camp, "Low Dog" had broken up the old and formed a new "soldier lodge," (which is the governing power of the camp). When I last heard of them on the morning of the 12th, they were across the line and travelling fast. Of course something may occur to cause them to change their minds, and until they actually surrender it can not be said that we are positively rid of them.

HORSE STEALING.

Horse stealing prevailed to a great extent in this vicinity during the autumn. Among other cases I reported to you that of a party of Indians (supposed to be American) who after securing the horses, fired into a lodge and killed a half-breed named Antoine Laplante. Unless some understanding is arrived at between the American and Canadian Governments that offenders may be promptly and vigorously dealt with, I very much fear that killing and stealing will increase to such an extent that the country along the border will be scarcely habitable. When the Indians are made to understand that the mere fact of "hopping" across the line does not exempt them from punishment, there will be a much greater guarantee of their good behaviour. Now they call the boundary the "Medicine line," because no matter what they have done upon one side they feel perfectly secure after having arrived upon the other.

Disabuse their minds of any such idea by delivering offenders to the authorities of the country in which crime is committed, then punish them as their offences merit, and trouble to a great extent from horse stealing and other Indian outrages along the border will cease.

The instances have been few that we have not been able to recover from our Indians horses stolen by them from the American side. It cannot, however, be said that the Americans have been as successful in recovering property for us.

Their officials are certainly always ready and willing to do whatever lies in their power, but heretofore there has either not been a sufficient force in the Indian country to support the civil authorities in carrying out the laws, or their system is at fault. Our Indians cannot understand why the Canadian authorities make them return all the animals they procure south of the line, while they cannot receive similar redress from the Americans.

STRENGTH OF THE FORCE AT WOOD MOUNTAIN.

The strength of the force necessary to be permanently maintained here will depend, to a great extent, upon the location of the Indian reservations upon both sides of the line, as well as the action of the Indians themselves. If Indian reservations are situated close to the line, it is only to be expected that a strong force will have to be maintained upon both sides, not only to prevent trouble between the Indians of the two countries, which for some years, at least, would be very apt to occur, but to give a sense of safety and security to settlers. On the other hand, if the Indians are placed on reservations and settle down a considerable distance from the border, it does not seem to me that there would be the same reason for maintaining a large force along the frontier. During the present unsettled state of affairs, a force