

North-west Mounted Police.

declined to give them, and the Indians then proceeded to search the house for some. They then proceeded to the next ranche, which was only a short distance further on, and finding that the owner was absent, entered the house and stole a quantity of provisions therefrom.

If Indians will act in such a manner, when they know that they are not permitted to roam about, the result, should they think that the police have not the power to order them to return to their respective reservations, and to insist upon their doing so, may be better imagined than described.

In addition to this I would point out that the Indians are not ill-treated nor interfered with unnecessarily by the police, but they are not permitted to loiter about town, nor to wander aimlessly about.

As you are of course aware, many of the ranchers in this country are obliged to leave home for days and often weeks at a time, for the purpose of cutting hay, looking for lost stock, etc. Upon such occasions they leave their families unprotected, and the Indians are only too quick to take advantage of the absence of the male portion of the population to steal and commit other acts in violation of the laws.

During the past season several small bands of Blackfeet have been found by our patrols travelling through the Porcupine Hills, without passes, and have been sent back to their reservations. In order to prevent theft by similar parties I ordered out two flying patrols and kept them constantly moving, one in the vicinity of the timber and through the Foot Hills, the other through the Porcupine Hills.

In the month of April last a report was spread throughout the southern portion of the district to the effect that there was danger of an Indian outbreak, the settlers were very much alarmed, and many of them applied to the non-commissioned officers in charge of the detachments for arms and ammunition. It seems that the rumour originated in the vicinity of Boundary Creek, and was added to as it spread. As soon as I heard it, I ordered our men to inform the settlers that it was without foundation, and also if possible to trace the origin of the same.

In June last I received a letter from the United States Indian Agent at Fort Belknap, requesting permission for a party of nine Indians, under one of their Indian scouts, to visit the Bloods. The commissioner of Indian Affairs was then visiting the "Blood" agency and I referred the matter to him.

During the same month a settler named Moir was interfered with by Indians, who prevented him from hauling logs from the left bank of the Belly River. Upon his reporting the fact to our men stationed at Big Bend the non-commissioned officer in charge proceeded to the timber camp, called the Indians together and explained to them that Moir had a right to take the logs in question. He also told them that they would be arrested should they interfere again.

Trouble of that description could be avoided if a responsible person were sent to the timber camp to see that only *bona fide* workers remained there, and that the camp was not made a rendezvous for some of the worst Indians.

During the summer a complaint was made by the manager of the Cochrane Ranch, that "Bloods" had been cutting wood and destroying the timber in the river "botoms," I notified the authorities at the "Blood" agency and gave orders to our patrols to proceed against any Indian they might find doing so, I also sent out a special patrol from Kootenai, for the purpose of ascertaining whether Indians had been cutting wood as reported, they, however, stated on their return, that they had not seen any Indians or trace of them.

The Indian Treaty money was sent as usual to the agents under police escort, Inspector Olivier had charge of that for the "Bloods" and Corporal Neary of "D" division, had charge of the escort going to the "Piegiens." The escorts remained on the reservations until all payments had been made, there was no trouble or bother of any kind.

The Indian "Medicine White Horse," who was on the 13th May, 1891, sentenced by the Hon. Mr. Justice Macleod, to two years' penitentiary for cattle killing, and who escaped from our guard room (on the 3rd June, 1891) where he had been confined,