

mountain road; bridges were built, and a few miles on the other side of the summit were also finished. Many parties have come through since, and all say the road is a good one. Some work will have to be done every year, as the timber, which falls across the track, must be cut out. This I understand has already occurred on the west end of the trail, as heavy timber fires have been raging for some time past. Our party did their work well, and Mr. McCord, as manager, deserves credit. It is a good thing for the Kootenai country to have a good trail cut through this Pass, as stock can be driven over and goods packed in from this side. My report of last year is up to so recent a date, that it is not necessary to go back many months. I have, however, endeavored to touch on all matters of importance and interest in this Treaty, and to show what has been done, and what improvements the Indians have made and are making.

I have the honor, Sir, also to attach herewith the Report of W. Pocklington, sub Agent, the same being for the Northern Division.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. E. DENNY,

Indian Agent.

BLACKFOOT CROSSING, N.W. T., TREATY No. 7,
20th July, 1883.

The Right Honorable

The Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward my first Annual Report. Mr. Agent Denny reported so fully on this Treaty up to the end of December, 1882, that it will not be necessary for me to go over the same ground, I will therefore commence at the 1st January, 1883.

On my return from visiting the Sarcee Indians, I found a great deal of excitement on the reserve caused by presents of tobacco having been sent by "Big Bear" the Cree chief, to "Crowfoot," asking him to visit the Crees in the vicinity of the Cypress Hills. "Crowfoot" was anxious to go, and gave as his reason, that he had recently lost several horses, presumably stolen by the Crees, and was desirous of getting them back. I had much trouble in persuading him to remain on his reserve, and partly owing to the inclemency of the weather and sickness I succeeded in detaining him. Later on some half breeds passed through the reserve, and spread most ridiculous reports as to the manner of building the Canadian Pacific Railway, and as it had been settled that the road would run through part of the reserve, this renewed the excitement I had had such difficulty in quelling; however, by taking every opportunity of talking about the railway, and explaining the benefit likely to be derived from its approach, I was quite satisfied that the Blackfeet would not raise the slightest objection to its being built.

During the early part of the winter, we had such severe cold weather with violent storms, that little or no work was done here; but early in February I sent the Indians out to cut fence rails, as the squaws had used nearly all those got out last year for firewood. Many of the Indians turned out and worked capitally, even though the weather continued cold.

On the North Blackfoot reserve (Old Suits), the Indians did much better. Mr. Wheatly the acting Instructor had his Indians out most of the winter. By the time we began here, they had finished above, getting out more rails than they required, besides building during the year some fifty more log houses. Some of these houses are really well built, the logs well sided. When it is taken into consideration that this work was done with chopping axes, the result is highly creditable to the Indians.