

The Cross Lake Indians were supplied with their complement of cattle this year. They unanimously request that Proud McKay, one of their councillors "suspended" by the agent in 1875 for dishonesty, contrary to any construction that can possibly be put upon the 72nd section of the Indian Act, for there is no provision mentioned therein for suspension of councillors for either dishonesty or any other crime, and the Governor alone is vested with authority for dismissals. The crime alleged to have been committed by this councillor consisted in breaking into a deserted storehouse of the Hudson's Bay Company and taking therefrom a handful of tea. His object in going into this building was to get a grindstone supposed to belong to the band, but afterwards discovered that it was owned by the Company, and that the article he was searching for was in another house.

Some dissatisfaction was expressed by the Saskatchewan Indians with regard to the quality and condition of cattle supplied them last year. Doubtless the lengthy and tiresome journey from Fort la Corne had an injurious effect upon them. They arrived at the various reserves much fatigued and reduced in flesh, and to make matters worse the Indians had not provided ample food and shelter for them, resulting in the loss of about three head of the twenty animals received. They made particular objection to an ox supplied to the Cumberland Band, complaining that he was old, whereupon Mr. Belanger, the Hudson's Bay Company's officer in charge of that district, gave them their choice of other two oxen in lieu thereof, and upon examining the same made a satisfactory selection.

With regard to the complaints of the Pas and Cumberland Indians, relative to the quality of the flour supplied them last year, I am convinced from enquiries made, that it was badly damaged by getting wet in transit from Winnipeg to the reserves, and that the representations made to the Department with regard to the same were substantially correct.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

I have the honor to be, Right Honorable Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. McCOLL,

*Inspector of Indian Agencies.*