



... Main Street, Circa 1876.

been churned into a thin and evil smelling gruel. There were dysentery and lice, and conditions that might have dismayed the steadiest veterans of the Empire. By September 18, they had reached the Sweet Grass Hills, where Commissioner George A. French and Macleod separated. French led two divisions back to Fort Pelly at Swan River, which was to be the Force's headquarters. Macleod was entrusted with the responsibility of establishing a post farther west. Within a month, Macleod's divisions had reached the notorious Fort Whoop-Up.

"... There was no sign of life below, where the palisaded, bastioned Fort Whoop-Up was flying what the men thought was the Stars and Stripes.

"But Macleod ordered the two nine-pounder field guns and the two mortars to be placed in strategic positions. Then

with rifles loaded and ready, and everyone silent and intent, Macleod's horsemen moved toward the fort. They expected soon to receive an order to dismount and deploy.

"'But', wrote Turner (the Force's first historian), 'Macleod rode straight ahead.... There were murmurs of amazement as the assistant commissioner dismounted and strode toward the open main gate. Entering and going to the nearest building within the enclosure, he rapped on the door.'

"After Macleod's continued knocking, the door was opened by an uncouth, gray-haired man. Dave Akers nonchalantly invited the police to come right in and make themselves at home. All the whisky traders had left the place long ago, he said, and the northern manager of the I.G. Baker Company was using the old fort as his