

the bad Indians started the massacre, all their civilization and brick houses did not prevent the very large majority of the supposed good Indians joining in the horrible murders of even women and children ; some of those who so relapsed having been educated at colleges, and some of them were church members.

During the last year, on two occasions, Indians have fired at the police when attempting their arrest. In one case, "Night Gun," a Blood, who had been followed for several days by Corporal Carter, fired once, and attempted to fire a second time, rather than be arrested for horse stealing, and only the other day, "Almighty Voice," a Cree, deliberately shot dead Sergeant Colebrook near Kinistino, while attempting his arrest for cattle killing and breaking jail. These were the only two occasions on which Indians fired at the police at close quarters, but while attempting to arrest "Scraping High," a Blackfoot, for the murder of Mr. Skynner, ration issuer to the reserve, the Indian fired frequently at both police and Indians before he was shot by a constable. It appears that this Indian had a child sick in the school conducted by the Rev. Mr. Tims, on the reserve, and on the child dying, after being taken home, he became more or less crazy, and after threatening several officials, finally shot Mr. Skynner, with whom he had some difficulty about obtaining beef for his sick child. After shooting him the Indian took to the bush, defied arrest, and was ultimately shot.

There is no doubt that while the larger proportion of the Indians mean well towards the whites, excitement, or the natural cussedness of a few young Indians may at any moment precipitate serious trouble.

The readiness with which, even the presumed to be reliable ones commence to carry large belts of ammunition, and repeating rifles, was clearly displayed near Gleichen this year when it was supposed by them that arrests would be made over the trouble with the Rev. Mr. Tims, and his school.

All this I respectfully submit should be well considered when objection is made to the cost of the North-west Mounted Police. The loss of life, trouble and expense occasioned in putting down the last rebellion is comparatively slight, compared with that the Southern Indians could cause if they really went out.

Every inducement should be given experienced members of the force to remain on, as an error of judgment might at any time cause a serious outbreak, and in my opinion, the force should be kept up for some years, to at least its present strength, viz., 780, including scouts and interpreters. This number, if properly handled and kept thoroughly efficient and equipped, enables the police to perform their very numerous duties, and at the same time, affords sufficient men at any given point to promptly and effectively act at the first commencement of trouble.

The expense, some \$600,000 per annum, is a mere bagatelle compared to the money cost of an Indian war, not to speak of the certain sacrifice of valuable lives, and the almost total loss of the years of labour and enormous amount of money thus far expended in reclaiming these Indians, and any saving in the above amount, would in my opinion, be very dearly purchased, even if only the confidence of the community in the strength and organization of the Mounted Police was shaken.

An efficient Indian police on the larger reserves, paid by the Indian Department, would be a great assistance in managing Indians, as frequently they will submit to arrest by their own people when it might be injudicious at the moment for police to act. This system works well in the States, and enables the agent to keep a close supervision, not only over his own Indians, but over visiting Indians, as we have frequently found. Every Canadian Indian found visiting on U. S. Montana reserves without a pass is at once conducted to the frontier, and handed over to the nearest Mounted Police detachment, whence they are escorted to their own agency, and it is my duty to express the thanks of the Mounted Police to the United States officials, Indian, judicial and military, for the great courtesy and assistance they annually extend to the Mounted Police on all occasions when duty brings us in contact with them, either by correspondence or personal interview.

LIQUOR.

A detachment was again sent this summer for duty on the Athabasca River to prevent liquor going in without permit, but an officer did not accompany it, the detach-