

Grey Eagle

In Chief Piapot's camp lived a warrior by the name of Grey Eagle, who was one of Piapot's right hand warriors and had fought with him in many tribal battles. Of the time I write, 1885, Grey Eagle was about fifty years of age. Yet he was as straight as a gun barrel. In his buckskin moccasins bedecked with beads of varied color he walked about with the quiet nimble grace of a panther. He stood all of six feet in height and bore the sharp well-moulded features characteristic of the prairie Indians who roamed the western plains of Canada. But unlike most of the warriors of his age, he bore no visible scars of battle, and was a noble looking specimen of a red man to behold.

Before I continue further with the story of Grey Eagle I am going to tell of a tragic happening which befell Chief Piapot's band the first year we were their neighbors. I am also going to tell how plentiful wild game was in those pioneer days, and how I happened to play with so many of the Indian children of Chief Piapot's camp.

Fierce Indian Tribal Battles

Prior to the year 1874 the Blackfeet and Cree Indians were deadly enemies, continually at war with each other. As the tide of immigration began to flow over the western plains, the bison herds kept moving westward and were soon far beyond Cree hunting ground. This compelled the Cree Indians to invade Blackfoot territory to kill bison, and led to still fiercer battles between the two tribes.

But in the year 1874 the Canadian Northwest Mounted Police were established on the western plans of Canada. Through their endeavor law and order was soon brought to the country, and peace treaties were entered into between the Blackfeet and Cree Indians that never were broken. So in the Spring of 1876 Chief Piapot and his band of three hundred and