

"The payments went off quietly, and, owing to competition, goods were sold at a remarkably low figure, which enabled the Indians to clothe themselves and their families better than usual.

"Rabbits were plentiful during winter, and this helped them greatly in their food supply, and all seemed happy and contented with their lot, till about January, when messengers began to come and go from all sections of the country, and I saw there was uneasiness among them. In February the Indians cut three hundred cords of wood for the contractor who supplied the industrial school, and five hundred cords for the Mounted Police. This enabled them to procure clothing and other necessaries, and all appeared contented. Then I found that messengers were being sent from Riel to them, and I visited the reserves frequently, trying to quiet their fears; for amongst other things they were told that soldiers were on their way, either to make them (the Indians) soldiers, or kill them. From confidential men whom I had amongst them, I found that all were very uneasy and unsettled. On the 24th March I started to visit the reserves, going first to Sweet Grass' reserve, then to Poundmaker's and Little Pine's. Knowing the temper of the Indians, I took out presents of tea and tobacco for each band. On my arrival at these reserves I found the Indians very sulky, though they had nothing to complain of, nor did they make any demands. I gave each band the tea and tobacco I had brought out for them, but even this did not seem to cheer them. On Saturday, the 28th, I visited the Stoneys, and gave them also tea and tobacco. They seemed glad to get it, and had no complaints to make. Their instructor (Payne) said: I believe the Crees are up to mischief, and in case you need assistance the Stoneys wil fight for the whites; they told me so. Poor fellow! his confidence in them was misplaced, for on the following Monday he was murdered by them in cold blood

"On Sunday morning I was astonished at getting word that the Indians from the various reserves (excepting Moosomin's and Thunder Child's) were within eight miles of Battleford, and all armed and in their war paint; and, later in the day, that they had already raided the houses of settlers *en route*. On Monday they raided the stores and houses in the town south of Battle River, reports of which you have already had. Horses and waggons were taken from farmers coming in with their families, and were glad to escape with their lives.

"The bands of Moosomin and Thunder Child, hearing what was about to take place, moved north of the Saskatchewan before the insurrection took place, taking with them their oxen and supplies, or at least as much as they could; but the river was breaking up and the crossing was most dangerous. All the other bands joined in the rebellion. There is one man, Baptiste, brother to Chief Red Pheasant, who deserves equal credit with Moosomin and Thunder Child, as he saved Instructor Applegarth's life, by helping him to get away from the reserve. As it was, Apple-