

with the Stewart Ranch Company by which the farm was transferred to them for one year.

The terms of the lease were such as to protect the interests of the Police force, and the terms have so far been faithfully carried out, and the results obtained very satisfactory.

North-West Act.

I consider it advisable that some change should be made in the North-West Territories Act in as far as it relate to the punishment of offenders convicted of liquor dealing or having it in their possession.

At present, in case of non-payment of fines, or when sent to gaol for second offence, persons cannot be sentenced to hard labor while undergoing their imprisonment.

I would suggest that the North-West Territories Act be so amended as to leave it to the discretion of the Magistrate whether persons so convicted should undergo imprisonment with or without hard labor.

Clothing and Kit.

The new scale of clothing and kit entirely removes the possibility of any dissatisfaction, and amply provides for the wants of non-commissioned officers and men. I am pleased to be able to report that the clothing and kits supplied during the last year are of good make and quality, with the exception of the breeches and long boots. As I have but very lately forwarded detailed reports containing suggestions as regards the changes which should be made in the future supply of these two articles, I need not in this Report deal further with the matter.

Arms.

You are aware that we are still obliged to retain in use at Regina and Battleford a number of Snider carbines. These carbines, owing to long and hard service, are fast becoming unserviceable, in addition to the arm itself being an obsolete one, and inferior to that which most of the Indians (*all* of those in the southern district) are armed.

Two years ago I alluded to certain defects existing in the first pattern of Winchester carbine supplied to the force. In the new carbine, manufactured expressly for the force by the Winchester Arms Company, all the old defects have been obviated. I beg to recommend that the whole force be at once supplied with Winchester carbines of the same pattern (model 1876) as those purchased from the Winchester Arms Company.

I would remind you that the carriages and limbers of the 7-pr. mountain guns are fast becoming unserviceable.

I recommend that new ones be purchased of the pattern lately approved by the Imperial authorities.

Gun detachments were told off and instructed in standing gun drill at Forts Walsh and Macleod.

The last Quarterly Return will show the amount of ammunition and artillery stores on hand, which quantity I consider sufficient to meet our wants.

Gaol.

I have once more to call attention to the urgent necessity which exists for the immediate erection of a gaol at some central point in these Territories. The population is so rapidly increasing that our guard rooms are now utterly inadequate to meet the requirements in the shape of gaol accommodation which are demanded of us. Already our guard rooms have been, and in most cases still are, much overcrowded. Imprisonment, for even a comparatively speaking short time, should be undergone in a proper gaol. I trust you may be able to give this matter your early and favorable consideration.