

SUPPLIES.

I was rather short of men last summer, and as every man was required at the Indian payments I did not attempt to cut our own hay. I obtained by contract, 222 tons at \$5 per ton. I supplied the contractor with a team of oxen and a hay rake. I have also contracted for the delivery of what hay we want at the barracks at \$2 25 per ton; a corporal and three constables, with two teams of horses supply the wood of this place; it has to be drawn about four miles from the south side of Battle River. During this cold weather they are only able to keep us going, but they got a good supply on hand early in the winter. We require about 600 cords. The Prince Albert detachment cut and deliver their own hay and wood this year, and the Duck Lake detachment supply their own wood, but their hay has to be contracted for.

I advertised for tenders, 5th September last, for flour and oats for this station and Prince Albert detachment, but I did not receive a tender for the Battleford supplies, consequently I had to purchase by private sale. I bought all the oats for sale here at \$1.25 per bushel, and bought the balance in Prince Albert at the same price, delivered here. I purchased 100 bags of flour from Captain Moore at \$6.50 per cwt. delivered here, but finding I could do better by buying wheat at Prince Albert and getting it ground, I arranged for the purchase of 600 bushels of the best quality of wheat at \$1.25 per bushel; this, when ground and delivered here, will give me flour at about \$4.75 per cwt. The lowest tenders received and accepted for the Prince Albert supplies, were, flour \$4.72, oats 78 cents, including sacking. I am wintering 50 of the beef cattle you sent here last fall. I am also wintering about 30 for the Indian Department, they agreeing to pay half the expense. I engaged two men for that purpose, and have sent them with the cattle out to the hay stacks, where there is good shelter. I killed enough beef in the beginning of winter to last us until April next. I also sent a supply to Prince Albert and Duck Lake. I had to pay from ten to twelve dollars per cwt. for beef at those posts. I find I can deliver it to them from here at \$8.50 per cwt.

I have to report, in the absence of Surgeon Miller, that the health of the force under my command has been very good during the past year, only one case of a serious nature occurred, viz.: Constable O'Neil, who had a very bad attack of pneumonia, which confined him to bed for some time. There have been many cases of cold and rheumatism since the winter set in, caused, I have no doubt, by the cold winds blowing through the cracks in the buildings, and the unusual fires that have to be kept up in the room to keep them warm.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) JAMES WALKER,
Superintendent.

Lieut.-Col. J. F. MACLEOD, C.M.G.,
Commissioner, N.-W. M. P.,
Cypress Hills, N.-W. T.

BATTLEFORD, 26th November, 1879.

(Copy.)

SIR,—I have the honor to report the result of farming operations at this post for the past year. As you are aware, a new field was broken up last spring near the barracks, where it could be better guarded from cattle. Constable Ridout was employed as farmer from the 29th March till the 14th July, 1879, when his time expired and he took his discharge. Constable Shaw was employed as gardener from the 15th April till the 12th of November, when his services as such were no longer required for the season; he also assisted at the harvest. Thomas Quinn and George Scott, the