

Either Inspector Gagnon or myself have been obliged to go on all expeditions with not more than two or three men, and even then those left at home are obliged to do double duty.

The country is fast filling with settlers, and though generally well behaved, there is always more or less police duty to be attended to; generally trivial offences, but still worth the attention of the authorities.

At a rough estimate there are at least 5,000 inhabitants, including Indians, in this district. Farming is rapidly increasing; and next year flour can be purchased for the force here at a reasonable rate. At present, wheat flour is selling at \$9.00 per bag (100 lbs.), and it will be less next year if the crops are good and a steam mill, which will then be completed, turns out a success.

I cannot finish my report without bringing to your notice the valuable assistance rendered to me by Inspector Gagnon during the whole time he has been under my command; and especially the ability shown by him in tracing up the guilt of the murderer and cannibal Ka-ki-si-kutchin, lately executed here. Inspector Gagnon, with a small party, found the camp where the crime was committed, and brought home the mangled bones of nearly all the victims.

Inspector Gagnon had several severe trips with dog trains during last winter under trying circumstances, chiefly on civil business, all of which he performed with zeal and credit.

I beg again to refer to the good conduct and cheerful manner of complying with orders of all the non-commissioned officers and constables of this detachment. There has been no crime, and I could not write too highly in their praise.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. D. JARVIS,

Superintendent.

To Lt.-Col. MACLEOD, C.M.G.,
Commissioner.

Forwarded

JAMES MACLEOD,
Commissioner.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT WINDER.

FORT MACLEOD, 3rd January, 1880.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following report for the year ending 31st December, 1879.

During the past year there has been great distress and suffering from hunger among the Indians of this district, owing to the scarcity of game, the buffalo having entirely disappeared from this section.

I have experienced great difficulty with this matter, applications for relief being constantly made to me by the starving bands of Indians.

Owing to the scarcity of flour and the uncertainty of the arrival of further supplies, I was able to afford but comparatively small assistance to the many thousands of starving Indians.

In March complaints were made to me by cattle owners that the Indians were killing and using their cattle; from that time until after the annual payments, in October, similar reports and complaints were almost daily coming in.

I went myself, and sent out officers on receiving these complaints, but could find no clue to the perpetrators of these depredations.