

camps as they arrived. The number of Indians increased daily, until at one time there were as many as five thousand about the Fort. Every effort was made to induce them to move on to their own country as soon as able; but for a long time without avail. Those who came in from the plains were certainly not in a condition to move; on the other hand, those who had been about the Fort all winter were in much better condition to travel. I tried in every possible way to get rid of them—gave them supplies sufficient to last them to the end of their journey, but after eating everything up they would invariably return with some sort of an excuse and ask for more.

It was not until June that any of the camps left for their own agencies, and then they were only induced to do so by sending trains of provisions with detachments of police in charge, who served out to them a ration from day to day as they travelled along.

HORSE STEALING.

When the spring opened horse stealing prevailed to a fearful extent. There were at one time camped out together Sioux, Crees, Bloods, Blackfeet, Salteaux, and occasional war parties from the American tribes living along the Missouri, all of whom were stealing each from the other.

I very much feared a serious collision between the tribes would be the result of so much stealing. Angry altercations occurred more than once, and shots were fired by a party of Assiniboines into the Sarcee camp. The Sarcees wisely refrained from returning the fire, and placed matters in the hands of the police.

Perhaps no better proof could be adduced of the authority and influence of the force, and the respect in which it is held, than the fact of detachments being able, when the Indians were greatly excited, to enter their camps and recover stolen property. Certainly I can say that it was only by the constant and prompt action, as well as mediation of the police, that much serious trouble between the tribes was averted.

THE INDIAN PAYMENTS.

By instructions received from the Indian Commissioner, I assembled the chiefs of the Northern Indians on the 2nd of May; informed them there would be no payments at the Sounding Lake, and asked where, instead of that place, they wished to receive their annuities. Their answers I forwarded to Mr. Dewdney and the agents at Battleford and Edmonton.

DAILY ROUTINE AT FORT WALSH.

In addition to the ordinary duties and routine, foot, riding and gun drill was carried on during the entire winter and spring.

The gun detachment was put through a regular course of firing practice under the supervision of the artillery officer.

The annual carbine practice took place in the autumn of 1879. There was commanding officer's parade every week, when arms, clothing and ammunition were inspected. Kit, saddle and medical inspections were also held weekly.

ARRIVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER.

Commissioner Macleod and Mr. Galt arrived from Fort Macleod on the 29th May. The former took command of the Fort, the latter management of the Indians.

INSPECTION BY COMMISSIONER.

On the 28th June, the division under my command was paraded (mounted) for inspection and drill before the Commissioner. At the conclusion of the parade the Commissioner complimented the officers and men upon the general efficiency of the