

North-west Mounted Police.

If the Australian police have sometimes such trouble to arrest white men, with the advantage of moderate weather all the time, how much more difficult must it be for the Mounted Police to follow and arrest an Indian, in an equally difficult country, surrounded on all sides by his own relatives, and with the climate we have to contend against.

INDIANS.

Great progress has been made by the Indians this year. Although in some districts their crops were a failure, the means of earning money which they now command, have placed the industrious ones above want, even when there has been little hunting. With the exception of the Bloods, Peigans, Sarcees and Blackfeet (and even these are now acquiring cattle) all reserves in the territories have large bands of excellent cattle, the quality of which will compare more than favourably with those of their white neighbours. All the beef required in these bands for the sick and destitute, etc., has been purchased direct from the Indians themselves, and particularly in the north, a considerable number of steers have been sold to drovers, many of them for English markets.

They are rapidly purchasing mowers, rakes and wagons, with which they put up enormous quantities of hay of a much better quality than that put up by the settlers generally.

At Regina the Indians have furnished the police with a very large proportion of the hay required, drawing it thirty miles, and stacking it to the admiration of every one, and without any trouble to the police, in contrast to the stacks so frequently put up by white contractors, occasioning constant trouble.

The efforts of the Indian Department in the direction of encouraging cattle raising amongst all bands of Indians, are meeting with marked success. Many of their reserves are not suited for extensive farming, while all are admirably adapted for stock raising. The work suits the Indians better also, as they can cut hay when there is no hunting, and the non-hunters can remain at home during the season and feed the cattle. Farming is too steady and monotonous work for them, although some have fine fields.

Considerable freighting is now done by them, and the Bloods have this year secured, in the open market, the contract for a good deal of the coal used by the police at Macleod, purchasing it from the Galt Company, and delivering it with their own four-horse teams at the barracks and outposts, and every year Indians are endeavouring to secure more hay contracts, both police and civilian. The large quantity of hay required for the Cochrane Ranch, south west of Macleod, was this year contracted for by the Bloods.

Among other contracts taken by the Indians, I may mention that for a new police outpost at Onion Lake, the agent there having contracted to erect a house, stable, storehouse, etc., all the material to be sawn, and the buildings erected by Indian labour.

While a few Indians have been arrested for being drunk and disorderly, and for gambling and other finable offences throughout the territories, it will, I am sure, surprise you to hear, that in most cases they elect to pay their fines; and pay up much more promptly than many whites. They quite understand their responsibilities, and stand punishment for setting out prairie fires, etc., with much better grace than the settlers.

Last season was generally a fair fur season, and this promises to be equally good. Rabbits lately very numerous are however, in some districts, dying off; a great loss to the Indians, as well as to the poorer settlers and half-breeds.

Very great improvements are manifest in many of the Indian houses, and a considerable proportion of the treaty money, particularly in the south, was invested in useful furniture, even bedsteads and washstands amongst other articles. "Red Crow," Chief of the Bloods has his house well carpeted throughout, and many others are very comfortable in their homes. While all this evidence of advancement must be a source of congratulation to the Government, it must be remembered that as far back as 1862, many of the Sioux in Minnesota were quite as far advanced in civilization, and when