

OIL!

MEANS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY IN ALBERTA

Alberta's rich oil resources combined with other mineral wealth are attracting more and more forward-thinking industries into the Province.

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Minister

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regarding an early post of the Force. Generally referred to as Swan River Barracks, it was there that the first government for the North-West Territories met in council.

In 1874, writes Mr. French, as the North-West Mounted Police neared the end of their march across the plains, the troops headed by Commr. G. A. French and Asst. Commr. J. F. Macleod, swung back to the south-east and into the Sweet Grass Hills. There they found plenty of feed and water for their thin, tired horses and stock. The Commissioner left the Force encamped, while he and Assistant Commissioner Macleod with a small detachment of men and transport, proceeded to Fort Benton, where they purchased much needed supplies and winter clothing for the men.

While in Benton, Commissioner French wired Ottawa for instructions. He was notified that Assistant Commissioner Macleod with three troops was to remain at the junction of the Belly and Bow Rivers, build a barracks, and look after law and order in that part of the Territories. The Commissioner was to return with "D" and "E" Troops by easy stages to Fort Qu'Appelle and Fort Pelly, then proceed to Fort

Livingstone. There he would find new barracks, built that summer as headquarters for the Department of Indian Affairs, and which were to be the temporary seat of the government for the North-West Territories.

When the Commissioner arrived at Fort Livingstone, better known as Swan River Barracks, he found that some of the buildings were completed, but a certain number had been built with green logs which had already dried out. The mud, used as filler in the chinks, had fallen away, leaving numerous holes through which the wind and cold weather penetrated rendering the buildings unfit to live in. Most of the hay supply for the winter had been burned, and there were no stables for the horses.

Commissioner French saw at once that under these conditions it would be impossible for both troops to winter at Fort Livingstone. Leaving "E" Troop with Insp. J. Carvell in charge, he proceeded to Winnipeg with "D" Troop, arriving on November 7. The snow was a foot deep, and the temperature 25 below zero. There was no accommodation in Winnipeg, no