

Battlefore, 10th November, 1879

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SIR,-I have the honor the report that, on the 30 October last, Charles Mair and Thomas McKay, Esquires, Justices of the Peace of Prince Albert, arrived at Battleford and reported that a large numbers of Sioux had ~~arrived~~ arrived at Prince Albert and had killed buffalo belonging to Captain Moore, and two oxen the property of one of the settlers, and that the Sioux stated they would kill others as they required them; they reported that the Sioux were giving a great deal of trouble by persistent begging and entering the settler's houses at all hours of the day and night. I left for Prince Albert on the 1st instant, taking with me the Sioux interpreter of the Indians Department; on my arrival at Prince Albert on the 4th instant, I found the reported depredations ~~very much exaggerated~~, neither buffalo or cattle had been killed by the Sioux; the misunderstanding from the want of a proper interpreter. The Sioux had brought some horses to the parties who were said to have lost stock and offered to trade them for cattle, as they were starving; this was misinterpreted to mean that they had already killed these animals and were willing to pay for them with horses. I called a meeting of the Sioux on the 5th instant, when Mr. Clarke, Indian Agent, and I, met the Headmen of the different bands; Mr. Clarke informed them that they must make every effort to support themselves and promised them fishnets, he stated that any provisions they could get from the Government would be very limited. I then cautioned them against intruding on themselves on the settlers, if they were required to work it was alright, but if they saw that they were not wanted they must not hang around the houses, as the settlers could not understand what they said and might think they were there with bad intentions. I told them also, that our great Mother's laws were very just; if a white man stole any of their property, or killed any of their stock, he would be punished, and if an Indian committed depredations he would certainly be treated in the same manner. I also told the Headmen that they must caution their young men against doing anything wrong, as the illegal acts of one or two men would bring discredit on the whole band. I heard that there were about one hundred and eighty lodges about the settlements, eighty-eight at Prince Albert, twelve at St. Laurent, and eight at Duck

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Lake, consisting of Tetons, Sioux, Yanktons, Mai-wakanton, Wap-eketon, Wapeton, and Minnie Conges. "The Man-That-Runs-After-The-Panther" and "Two Dogs" are the leading men at Prince Albert; "White Cap" at St. Laurent; and "Drunken Ox," of Iron Dog's band at Duck Lake. They were not in want until the cold weather set in, as they were getting ducks and other small game, and many of them found employment harvesting and threshing; and their means of subsistence are in a manner at an end for this year; about half of the number might find ~~find~~ employment and would be an acquisition to the settlements for the winter, but the settlements are too small to employ so many. I had a interview with "Dr Drunken Ox," of the Tetons, at Duck Lake on the 7th instant. He stated that his chief "Iron Dog," was at the Sand Hills, on the South Branch with sixteen lodges, and intended to come to Duck Lake this winter, he said that their women would work for the settlers and the men would hunt; I advised him to send word to "Iron Dog" not to come to the settlements, as he must see that the settlers could not find employment for all that were there now, and if they expected to get any assistance from the Government they would be more likely to get that at Wood Mountain or Cypress Hills.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES WALKER;
Superintendent.Lieut.-Col. J. F. Macleod, C.M.G.,
Commissioner.