

Year 1882 (for '81).

Office of the Commissioner,
North-West Mounted Police,
1st February, 1882.

The Right Honorable
The Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa,

SIR.-In submitting my annual Report, I shall first call attention to the surrender of Sitting Bull and the refugee Sioux.

~~It is~~ It is, I think, a matter of the utmost ~~importance~~ congratulation that the Dominion Government has thus peacefully affected the surrender of a warlike ~~and powerful~~ nation of Indians, whose presence in our country has necessarily been a ~~source~~

source of continued and perpetual anxiety. In connection with this surrender I trust the Government has every reason to be ~~very~~ gratified with the manner in which its policy has been carried into effect by the force under my command.

It will be remembered that in 1877, soon after the Custer Fight, Sitting Bull and his followers, numbering some 150 lodges, crossed the boundary line to seek shelter in British possessions. It was astounding with what rapidity the news of Sitting Bull's safe arrival in Canada was transmitted to other branches of Sioux who had, up to that time, remained in the United States. This news quickly ~~had~~ had the effect of rendering our country attractive to the remainder of the hostile Indians who had taken part in the Custer fight, their numbers being augmented by large bands of Indians of the same tribe who had previously been located in American reservations--in other words, a general stampede took place, and in an extremely short time Canada became the home of every Sioux Indians who considered himself antagonistic to the American Government. In all, they numbered ~~some 700 lodges~~; these lodges being crowded, it may safely be estimated that they contained eight souls to a lodge; thus suddenly we had our Indian population increased in a very undesirable manner by some five thousand six hundred souls. In addition to Sitting Bull, we had such celebrated chiefs as "Spotted Eagle," "Broad Trail," "Bear's Head," "The Flying Bird," "The Iron Dog," "Little Knife," and many others.

At that time the savage warfare that these Sioux Indians had engaged in against the United States was fresh in the public mind, as were also the many Indian outrages committed against American settlers; the press teemed with graphic descriptions as to the doings of the savages, whose presence caused such consternation among settlers and intending immigrants. Their power and warlike disposition was quoted again and again. ~~Not~~ Recollections of the Minnesota Massacre were publicly revived, and large numbers of United States troops were hurried ~~to the~~ forward and posted along the Western Frontier. It was not then to be wondered at, that when the Sioux crossed over into the Canadian territory, universal uneasiness prevailed.

Not only were the fears of our actual and intending settlers aroused, but our own Indians and Half-breeds looked with marked, and not unnatural, disfavor upon the presence of so powerful and savage a nation ~~in~~ (for it really was ~~that~~) in their midst. We were assured on all sides that nothing short of an Indian war would be on our hands; to add to this, serious international complications at times seemed inclined to present themselves. Both the American and Canadian press kept pointing out the possibility of such a state of affairs coming about.

The press of Manitoba even urged that a regiment of mounted troops, in addition to the police should be ~~sent~~ sent to the North-West to avoid international complications and the interruption of trade.

From the above it will be seen the position in which the Police Force was placed. From 1877 up to the past year we maintained a supervision and control of the Sioux.

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It would need more time than I have at my command and force my report to assume too voluminous an aspect were I to give even a short summary of the perpetual state of watchfulness and anxiety we were kept in during these years, to say nothing of the hard service we were constantly being called upon to perform. Every movement of the