

until they became self supporting. Not only have the Sioux killed of an immense number of animals which could have been available for our own Indians; but by the ~~increased presence of such increased numbers~~ continued presence of such increased numbers, they have prevented the northern Indians from securing their usual supplies, and have driven the large eastern herd south, to occupy the very gap left by the Sioux when they left their old hunting grounds. It is a matter of reasonable doubt whether the herd will ever return in anything like the same number as heretofore. I think that the straits to which the Sioux have been brought this winter will very likely soften ~~the~~ down the antipathy to the American Government, and pave the way towards a peaceful return to the other side.

The different stations of the force are as follows:--Fort Walsh, Cypress Hills, about one hundred and sixty miles north of Benton, Montana, the head of navigation on the Missouri River. During the summer a large storehouse, with shingled roof, has been added, and two other storehouses, formerly covered with mud, have been heightened and shingled. These improvements will save considerably loss, as it was ~~xxx~~ found impossible to keep out the wet with mud roofs. There are two outposts to Fort Walsh, one at Wood Mountain, and another small one under canvas during the summer, but on the approach of winter they were moved in, and one of the divisions, which had been in barracks moved to Fort Macleod.

Fort Macleod, one hundred seventy miles west from Fort Walsh, in latitude $49^{\circ} 44''$, and longitude $115^{\circ} 30''$. The quarters of one division ~~xxxx~~, and the officers' quarters, have been completely renewed, and made comfortable with shingle roofs. The officers' quarters are occupied by the division which was moved up from Fort Walsh in the fall, while the officers live in cottages outside. A small but well built jail is very much needed at this post.

Fort Calgary, one hundred miles north of and an outpost of Fort Macleod, has /24 been improved by having the storehouse shingled. All these improvements have been done by our own men.

Fort Saskatchewan, eighteen miles north of Edmonton, was, I understood, to be completed by the men belonging to the Board of Works, but nothing has been done.

Battleford, the barracks, stables and storehouses at this point are still unfinished. Their state has already been reported upon, but nothing has been done, and portions of them ~~are~~ like the ruins of old buildings. There is an out post of Battleford at Prince Albert's, formed during the summer on account of the presence of a band of Sioux in the neighborhood who were pilfering from the settlers. They have been behaving very well lately, and I am informed are trying to gain a livelihood by cutting wood and a other work.

At Shoal Lake, a well built a comfortable post consisting of of icer's and men's quarters, stables and storehouse have been built ~~by~~ ~~th~~ during the summer by ~~the~~ Inspector Herchmer and the detachment under his command.

Qu'Appelle is an out post where there are small buildings, and during the summer season a small look-out party is stationed at the Rapids, on the Assiniboine River, where the Qu'Appelle trail crosses. This party, I am informed, did good service overhauling traders proceeding to the plains.

The Swan River barracks are occupied only by caretakers.

Appendix "A" shows the distribution of the force at three different posts.