

MOUNTED POLICE DETACHMENT AT WOOD MOUNTAIN.

told me is not here; tell me today what you said yesterday", and again, with his last say, which closed the meeting: "What would I remain for? To have my horses and arms taken away? What have the Americans to give me? They have no lands. Once I was rich, plenty of money, but the Americans stole it all in the Black Hills. I have come to remain with the 'White Mother's' children".

The failure of the first attempt was followed up by the arrival of an official U. S. Commission to interview Sitting Bull in September, 1877. Only with great difficulty was the Sioux Chief persuaded by Inspector Walsh to leave his camp at Wood Mountain and journey to Fort Walsh to meet the Commissioners there. The arrival, at their camp, the day before, of 100 Nez Perces, wounded and bleeding, who had just escaped from United States troops, had made the Sioux extremely hostile.

The United States Commissioners, General Terry, General Lawrence, Colonel Corbin and Colonel Smith, the Police officers, newspaper correspondents, and the Head and Minor Chiefs made up the gathering.

The meeting was shorter than the previous one. Sitting Bull treated the Commissioners with disdainful silence and refused to shake hands with them. His answers were brief but unconciliatory: a blunt refusal to consider the American terms, which called for a surrender of arms and ammunition, and an agreement to locate on the Agencies assigned to the Sioux.

With the departure of the Commissioners it became evident that the unwelcome visitors would have to be tolerated for some time to come. The arrogant attitude of the Sioux soon began to express itself. As a result, towards the end of October, 1877, the detachment at Wood Mountain was augmented by Sub. Inspector Frechette and eight Sub. Constables, three of "B" and five of "E" Division.

The new strength fluctuated with withdrawals and replacements; at the end of 1877, there were 1 Sub. Inspector, 16 men and 15 horses.

For the next three years every effort was bent to make the Sioux realize that they could not hope for permanent homes in Canada, and that their best interests called for a return to the United States. That this was finally accomplished was only due to patient hard work, to days and nights of steady persuasion, argument and illustration to establish in the minds of the Indians a confidence in the people of the United States, and a sense of security in their dealings with them.

As these methods began to have their effect, a restless spirit developed among the younger element of Sitting Bull's followers. Resistance to his control increased the Sioux Chief's surliness, and the tension began to express itself in many different ways. Wood Mountain, in those days, was a keg of dynamite, with all that explosive's power of destructiveness.

The strength of the Police in the South kept pace with the situation. Fort Walsh, which became the Headquarters in 1878-9, almost trebled its numbers during the next two years. It was clearly the intention to keep potential re-inforcements outside the danger circle and Wood Mountain increased less obtrusively; by the end of 1878 the nominal roll of "B"