

Sask. AND ITS PEOPLE CONTINUED.

who could talk Sioux I told SB through him that if he had anything to say to me here was a man who could do the interpreting.

Then SB stood up and shook hands with me, and everyone applauded him. He then made a speech in which he said they were at Wood Mountain and were starving as there were no buffalo, and so they had come to get some. He did not say whether he wanted to buy the flour or not but I gathered that he meant to have some somehow. When he had finished his speech he sat down and had another smoke. Meantime I had had to prepare a speech. I stood up and shook hands with

page 364

all of them and then I told them I was sorry to hear they were starving, but I was not surprised for provisions were scarce everywhere. It was a fact that I had flour but I was not the proprietor; I was only the manager of the mission and I could not do as I liked; still I wanted to live with people as good neighbors, and since I had some flour and they had none I was willing to exchange with them, and they could give me whatever they had. Then SB stood up, and they all applauded and SB took the blanket from his shoulder and gave it to me. There was little or no money in the country; all was trade, but it was a good blanket and so I said I would give him three dollars for it. Then five of the men got up and each gave me a stick about a foot long. Each stick meant a horse, so it was that they were offering me five of the horses that were tied outside. I wanted to see the horses they were offering me, so we went outside and they pointed the horses out to me. I examined them and appraised them to be worth about twenty-five dollars apiece, so that was alright. We had powder and shot and tea and so on but everything was very expensive. Tea was a dollar ~~xxxx~~ or a dollar and a quarter a pound; bacon fifty cents a pound; and sugar fifty cents. They had a lot of things they had taken from the corpses of the American soldiers they had killed, drawers and undershirts, top boots, bridles, hats, saddles and watches. The watches had been good, but they were no good now as time keepers, because the Indians had taken the wheels out of them to make ear-rings, but I bought them for the gold that was in them. I did not give much flour for the horses. The rest of the pay was partly in dry goods and I sold them every bit of vegetables I had and all the tea and sugar I could spare. I was quite ready to take anything that was of value. They went away with about six or seven bags of flour to divide among themselves, and they seemed pretty well satisfied. I was glad to see them go away."

Chapter L.

Page 459.

He wrote: "A ride