

1880.

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REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT J.M. WALSH.

Brockville, 31st December, 1880.

SIR.-I have the honor to submit the following report for the year ending 31st December, 1880.

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June 7th. By the assistance of Sitting Bull I recovered from the Sioux camp at Burnt Timber, nine horses, the property of the United States Government and citizens, and returned them to Mr. Porter, United States Indian Agent at Poplar Creek.

J. W. WALSH
Supt. N.W.M.P.

REPORT OF SURGEON GEORGE A. KENNEDY.

Fort Walsh, N.W.T., 23rd December, 1880

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In September I was ordered to the Head of the Mountain to enquire into the causes of some sickness which had broken out among the Assinboines. I found a large number of the tribe prostrated, and treated some sixty or seventy cases.

Fifteen hundred Creeks camped on the east hill near the Fort. They had not been long settled when an epidemic of diarrhoea and dysentery broke out among them. Almost every individual in camp was affected, and quite a number, principally children, died. As an instance of how common it was, I may mention that I visited and treated one hundred and fifty cases in one day.

Shortly after this, a report was brought me that small-pox had broken out in the camp. I proceeded there at once, and found that the small-pox was a case of scarletina. It was the first of an epidemic which was destined to run through the band. Fortunately, the type was a mild one, with few throat symptoms, and, with ordinary care, not specially dangerous. It was confined to the children, although many of the adults were also affected. On the 28th there were some twenty cases; on the 18th October, when I visited the camp at the ten-mile crossing, I found sixty-six cases. All these received medical treatment. Up to this time the number of deaths had been twelve. I think that in all there were perhaps one hundred and ~~twenty~~ fifty or two hundred cases, and that the number of deaths amounted to fifteen or twenty. It is very difficult to obtain correct statistics from Indians.

On the 20th October I visited this camp again on account of another small-pox report having reached here. It is needless to state that it was found to be as false as the first.

October and November were marked by the prevalence of measles on the reserves at the "Head of the Mountain" and "Maple Creek." A few deaths resulted from this visitation

Your obed Etc.

Geo. A Kennedy, M.B.

Surgeon

Col. Irvine

Fort Walsh.