

77
65
12
In Sessional Papers 9 to 14.
Vol X no.7 1877.
Appendix D 40 Victoria
A 1877

Wino 22

Page 210

See also MS-75/6

On the 22nd of August the following report of Sub-Inspector Dennit was recieved from the Assisstant Commissioner.

"According to orders recieved on July 8th to proceed to the Blackfoot camp for the prisoner 'Nataya,' I left Bow River on the above mentioned date and found the Blackfeet camped about thirty miles above the mouth of Red Deer River, that being anout two hundred miles north of Elbow River.

"After having secured the prisoner I was detained in camp by a council called by the principle Blackfeet Chieffs, who invited me to their meeting.

"They told me that they were very glad we had arrived, as at that time they were in a very unsettled state, owing to communications that had passed between the Blackfoot nation, including Blood Indians and Piegans, and the Sioux from across the line.

"About a month ago the Sioux sent a message to the Blackfoot Camp with a piece of tobacco, which the Blackfoot Chief showed me. The messenger told the Blackfeet, from the Sioux, that the tobacco was sent them to smoke if they were willing to come across the line and join the Soix in fighting the Crow Indians, and other tribes with whom they were at war, and also the Americans whom they were fighting at the same time.

"The Sioux promised to give the Blackfeet, if they would join them, plenty of horses and mules they had captures from the ~~White~~ Americans; they also told the Balackfeet that they had plenty of white women whom they had paten prisoners, and they promised to give them to the Blackfeet if they would join them. /24

"They also told the Blackfeet that if they would come to help them against the Americans, that after they had killed all the Whites they would come over and join the Blackfeet to exterminate the Whites on this side.

"They also told him that the soldiers on this side were weak, and that it would take them but a short time to take any forts that they had built here, as they had taken ~~many~~ many strong stone forts from the Americans, at a small loss to themselves.

"The Blackfeet had sent an answer to the Sioux a short time before I arrived, to the extent that they could not smoke their tobacco on such terms, and that they were not willing to make peace with the understanding of helping them to fight the Whites, as they were their friends and they would not fight against them.

"The messenger from the ~~Blackfeet~~ Blackfeet to the Sioux had just returned when I got to their camp, with the answer the Sioux had sent.

"They said that as they would not come and help them against the Americans, that they would come over to this side and show the Blackfeet that White soldiers were nothing before them, and that after they had exterminated the soldiers and taken their forts they would come against the the Blackfeet.

"In consequence of this message the Blackfeet nation, when I reached their camp, were in a state of uncertainty, not knowing how to act. 'Crow-foot,' the Head Chief of the Blackfeet was authorized by all the nation, all of whom were present, to ask me whether in case they were attacked by the Sioux without themselves being the aggressors, and called upon us, for the Mounted Police, to help them, we would do so. I told them that in case the Sioux crossed the line and attacked the Blackfeet, without the Blackfeet giving them any cause to do so, that we were bound to help them, they being subjects of this country, and having the right of protection as well as any other subject.

"They were well pleased at what I told them, and said that they intended always in future to be in peace with the Whites, and particularly with ~~the~~ us; that they saw the way way we had dealt with them since we had been in the country, and they were sure we were their friends.

"The Chief told me in these words; he said: 'We all see that the day is coming when ~~the~~ buffalo will all be killed, and we shall have nothing more to live on, and when you will come into our camp and see the poor Blackfeet starving,' 'I know,' he said,