

and 30 United States government mules, crossed the line, and encamped at Wood Mountain, east of the Cypress Hills. Sub-Inspector Frechette having located this camp, Inspector Walsh proceeded thither, arriving at Wood Mountain on the 21st December, making the trip from the end of the Cypress Mountain in three and one-half days. The hostiles had arrived only two days before the Inspector's arrival. Their camp was adjoining the Santee camp of about 150 lodges, of which White Eagle was Chief, and was situated in the timber, four miles east of the Boundary Survey Buildings. White Eagle had occupied that section for many years past, and was very observant of the Canadian laws. He expressed himself to be glad to see Inspector Walsh, as he was unable to tell the new arrivals the laws which they would have to observe if they remained in this country. The matter had given him much uneasiness as he did not wish other Indians coming in and joining his camp to be without of the law which would govern them. About six o'clock on the evening of Walsh's arrival, White Eagle assembled all the hostile chiefs; the principal ones amongst whom were "The Little Knife," "Long Dog," "Black Moon," and "The Man Who Crawls," and explained to them who the Inspector was.

Walsh opened the council by telling them he would not say much to them aside from giving them the laws which governed the people in Canada, which they must obey as long as they ~~stayed~~ remained, and to ask them a few questions to which answers would be required, which, he would transmit to the Queen's Great Chief in the country.

He asked them the following questions: "Do you know that you are in the Queen's country?" They replied, that they had been driven from their homes by the Americans, and had come to look for peace. They had been told by their grandfathers that they would find peace in the land of the British. Their brothers, the Santees, had found it years ago and they had followed them. They had not slept sound for years, and were anxious to find a place where they could lie down and feel safe; they were tired of living in such a disturbed state.

Walsh next asked them, "Do you intend to remain here during the cold months of the winter, have peace, and when spring opens, return to your country across the line and make war?" They answered, no, they wished to remain, and prayed that he would ask the Great Mother to have pity on them.

Walsh then explained the laws of the country to them as had been the custom in explaining them to other Indians, and further told them that they would have to obey them as the Santees and other Indians did.

The several chiefs then made speeches in which they implored the Queen to have pity on them, and they would obey her laws. Walsh replied that he would send what they had said to the Queen's Great Chief. In conclusion he told them that there was one thing they must bear in mind, the Queen would never allow them to go from her country to make war on the Americans, and return for her protection, and if such were their intention they had better go back and remain.

The following day the Chiefs waited upon Walsh, with White Eagle for spokesman, and prayed that he would allow them a small quantity of ammunition for hunting purposes as their women and children were starving. They were using knives made into lances for hunting buffalo, and others were lassoing and killing them with their knives. Some were using bows and arrows, and killing this way was so severe on their horses that they were nearly used up, and if they did not have any ammunition they must starve.

Walsh replied that the Great Mother did not wish any people in her country to starve, and if she was satisfied that they would make no other use of ammunition than for hunting, she would not object to them having a small quantity, and that the Santees who always obeyed the laws could be allowed a small quantity; but they, the Uncapapas Agallallas and others were strangers, and might want ammunition to send to the people whom they claimed as brothers on the other side of the line. This, they declared they did not wish to do.

Walsh then told them he would meet Mr. Le Garre, a Wood Mountain trader, who was on his way with some powder and ball and 2,000 rounds of improved ammunition to trade to the Santees, and would allow him to trade to them a small quantity for hunting purposes only, and this appeared to relieve them greatly.

Not the least cause of anxiety in connection with the incursion of these United States Indians was the fear of collision with the Canadian tribes. In his report at the end of the year 1876, the Comptroller, Mr. White, wrote:- "The country between the Cypress Hills and the Rocky Mountains, which has hitherto been ~~known~~ claimed by the Blackfeet as their hunting ground, has this year been encroached upon by other Indians and ~~Santees~~