

decision. The alarming diminution in the number of buffalo made it urgent that the Sioux should be sent over the border as quickly as possible, for each year saw the Indians of the north-west threatened more and more with famine. The consequent increase of the burden on the shoulders of the Mounted Police was very great, and called for serious consideration. That the Force itself, however, had complete confidence in its own strength is made evident by a report from the officer commanding the Wood Mountain post at that time. He recommended that "At least fifty men" should be stationed there, as there were about three thousand Sioux camped in the vicinity!

How the Police impressed Sitting Bull and his turbulent warriors is well illustrated by the affair in which Sergeant M'Donald figured. The scene is still Wood Mountain. One day the Police found half a dozen Salteaux Indians / ⁸⁰ dead near their post, and *date?* not only dead but scalped. Another Salteaux who had witnessed the tragedy confirmed the belief that the perpetrators of the crime were Sioux, and if further proof were wanting it was afforded by Sitting Bull himself, who soon after appeared at the Police quarters and demanded the surrender of the surviving Salteaux. Sergeant M'Donald was a tough nut for the Sioux chief to attempt to crack. He was not a bit scared when Sitting Bull leaped from his pony and ran forward thrusting the muzzle of his gun into the other's stomach. The old soldier pushed the weapon to one side, and invited Sitting Bull and the four chiefs with him to enter the stockade and have a "pow-wow." The rest of the Indians - about five hundred in all - remained outside.

When Sergeant M'Donald conducted the chiefs into his quarters their arms were left stacked in the yard. This strategic move gave him the whip hand over them. First he commanded that the howling mob of "braves" without should be ordered to disperse. This was done; then the sergeant explained the law to them, and announced that he was going to send to the Sioux camp to arrest the murderers of the dead Salteaux. Three constables went on this mission, and a lively time they by all accounts, with the Sioux hustling them and trying to provoke a fight. But they got their men, whose names were known, and they brought the prisoners back. Sitting Bull received his first lesson in Police methods then; the second came when the prisoners in