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Appendix D.

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Department of the Secretary  
of State,NorthWest Mounted Police Branch.  
Ottawa, 31st December, 1877.

During December, 1876, United States Indians, numbering about 500 men, 1,000 women, and 1,400 children, with about 3,500 horses and 30 United States mules, crossed the line and camped at Wood Mountain, east of Cypress Hills.

They informed the officers of the Mounted Police, who visited them, that they had been driven from their homes by the Americans, and had come to look for peace; that they had been told by their grandfathers, that they would find peace in the land of the British; that their brothers, the Santees, had found it years ago, and they had followed them; that they had not slept sound for years, and were anxious to find a place where they could lie down and feel safe.

Parties of observation were immediately sent out by Inspector Walsh, commanding at Fort Walsh, and communication between Fort Walsh and the Indian Camps was established by the erection of outposts convenient distances apart,

The Police took possession of all firearms and ammunition held by parties for the purpose of trade, and sales have been made only on permit granted by the officers of the force.

X Towards the end of May, Sitting Bull, with 135 lodges, crossed the boundary, and joined the other United States Indians in Canadian Territory.

On the 2nd June, the officers of the force held a Council with Sitting Bull and other Chiefs, and Headmen of the U. S. Indians, which resulted in promises on the part of the Indians, to observe the laws of the White Mother which were explained to them.

On the 30th May, the Commissioner, Lt.-Col. Macleod, recommended that an attempt should be made to induce the U. S. Indians in Canadian Territory, to re-cross the Line. Subsequently, the United States Government appointed a Commission to negotiate with Sitting Bull and other U.S. Indians, with a view to inducing them to return to the United States. Unfortunately, the efforts of that Commission were not successful.

77 About 100 Nez Percés, men, women, and children, who escaped from the United States troops during the fight which resulted in the capture of Chief Joseph and his followers, crossed the ~~line~~ boundary in the early part of October, and several other bands have since crossed the line, and taken refuge in British Territory.

Correspondence with ~~the Indians~~ reference to these Indians is annexed hereto, also the proceedings of the Sitting Bull Commission, marked "Appendix E."

Attached hereto, marked "Appendix F" will be found papers relating to the action taken by the Mounted Police in May last in connection with an assault by a camp of Assiniboine Indians numbering 250 lodges, upon a camp of Sauteaux Indians, numbering 15 lodges.

In consequence of the manner in which the Blackfeet Indians had scattered over the plains during the early winter and spring, it was found impossible until the month of August to communicate with them the message referred to in the Mounted Police Report for 1876, expressive of Her Majesty's appreciation of their conduct in rejecting overtures from the Sioux Indians on the United States to join in a war of extermination against the white population.