

Army, in token of surrender, and the remainder of the band went in with Mr. Louis Legare, who supplied carts and food at the expense of the American Government.

"This surrender ended our troubles with Sitting Bull and his Sioux, and I may say in connection with it that not one word appeared in the official reports of the year to say that Macdonnell had even seen the chief; and an officer who was many hundreds of miles away and Mr. Legare, the trader, who certainly did not supply the Indians for love, were honourably mentioned. The officer was one of the best fellows in the Force and Legare a good citizen, but they had, at the actual surrender, nothing whatever to do with inducing the Sioux to return to their homes in the United States. This honour belongs to Macdonnell."

**T**URNING, now, to, Mr. Horton. (*Adventure*, January 1st, 1933): Readers of his letter, in which he checked up Inspector Parsons' statements, will recall that it agrees substantially with what I have just said. But it is hardly adequate and in other respects is off the trail. The following statements, especially, require comment: "I can find nothing (in "Forty Years in Canada") indicating that Sitting Bull or any of his chiefs or followers were ever arrested in Canada. There was never any need to arrest them, for Sitting Bull was decidedly on his best behavior while here, as he hoped to remain in Canada and had petitioned the Dominion Government for a reservation . . . With the exception of the small flares of rebellion in 1870 and 1885, there has never been trouble with the Indians of Canada."

These remarks are only partly accurate and, as such, are apt (quite unintentionally) to leave the casual reader with the impression that the Sioux and other Indians dealt with by the Force were not really hard to control. "Forty Years in Canada" does not pretend to cover the Sioux and other Indian problems in full; and to get the whole picture you must turn to other sources, the reports of United States and Canadian officials and of the Mounted Police.

**F**ROM these it is clear that the Sioux certainly were on their best behavior while in Canada—bitter experience having taught them that if they returned to the United States they could expect only a continuation of the policy which had robbed them of everything but their lives and had driven them to "massacre" Custer. On entering Canada, they pathetically told Inspector Walsh that they simply wanted to find "peace in the Land of the Great Mother, a place where they could lie down and feel safe." And they tried hard, throughout their stay, to demonstrate that, if only treated decently, they too could be "good Indians".

At the same time, as unwanted, destitute outlaws in a strange land, among hereditary Indian enemies and unfriendly whites, with American troops waiting (they believed) to take a bloody revenge for Custer's defeat, they were potentially very dangerous, for in sheer desperation they might have done almost anything. Often, their natural truculence flashed out, creating very difficult situations, and they were so closely watched

and, when necessary, so firmly handled that, if never *formally* under arrest, they might just as well have been.

**O**NE little-known example: Some Sioux bucks audaciously helped themselves to a bunch of Police horses—tail-twisting de luxe! Inspector Allen, with a few redcoats, entered Sitting Bull's camp, demanded their return, and reminded the chief that such things were not done in the Queen's country. Sitting Bull testily challenged him to take away the horses if he dared. Allen instantly replied—

"I'd take away the very horse you're riding, if I knew it were stolen!"

Sitting Bull said fiercely—

"It is stolen!"

Whereupon Allen, without a moment's hesitation, lifted the outraged chief from the saddle, dropped him to the ground and led off the horse!

The party made good their retreat. But the Sioux were frantic with rage. For many hours thereafter, their yelling, firing hundreds besieged the Police in their small fort at Wood End. Fortunately, Sitting Bull at last cooled down and called off his braves without actually attacking. But it was a very near thing, which might well have set the whole North-West ablaze.

**I**T IS to be remembered that the Force was then organized only four years and ridiculously weak in numbers—only 300, of whom no more than half were available for duty in the critical border area—yet was responsible for the control of 17,000 Canadian Indians and from 1,200 to 10,000 Sioux! Moreover, it was entirely "on its own", for there was then no railway in Canada west of the Great Lakes, and Canadian troops, for several reasons, could not be sent to the scene of action via the American lines; hence, had serious difficulties arisen, no reinforcements could have reached the Force for many months.

Naturally, the question arises: How did they do it? How, without bloodshed, did this absurdly small corps pacify and win over so many restless Canadian Indians, win over and finally get rid of the numerous, ferocious Sioux? The answer is simple: The redcoats gave them justice and understanding, fed, clothed and nursed them, so that even the Sioux, smarting though they were with memories of innumerable wrongs inflicted on them by the whites, were kept in hand. Decent treatment (something new)—that was the secret.

Even Sitting Bull (for all his occasional outbursts) was won over. For instance, bearing Macdonnell no ill-will, he presented him, on parting, with a beautiful Indian dress belonging to his daughter, which Mrs. Macdonnell (now Carstairs) still treasures in affectionate remembrance of the much-maligned old chief.

**I**T WOULD be pleasant to be able to say that the pledge given Sitting Bull by Macdonnell on behalf of the United States—that if the Sioux returned to the United States, they would be well treated—was faithfully kept. But it became only another promise broken by the Stone-hearts. The territory left to them by previous treaties was soon cut in half and their rations were seriously