

Fort Macleod, March 25th 1880.

Sir,

I have the honor to report:

I arrived at Calgary on the evening of the 13th Feb^{ry}, according to your instructions, I inquired into the state of the indians at that Post.

I found 15 families of Crees & one lodge of Stonies all depending on the assistance they received from the Police to live.

Most of those Crees came from Edmonton last fall thinking that there was some Buffalo in this part of the country & finding none, they wanted to return but the winter set in suddenly & the weather became so severe that they could not travel. They were forced to remain ~~at~~ Calgary.

There is no small game & they would have starved to death if they had not been fed by the Police.

St. Col. J. F. Macleod, C.M.G.
Commissioner

St. N. M. P.
Fort Macleod.

I tried to get Beef for less than 6c⁵ ^{at Calgary} ~~per lb.~~ but it was impracticable. I started for Morleyville on the 16th.

There I found about 22 lodges of Stony Indians & 5 or 6 lodges of Crees all scattered in a radius of 10 or 12 miles. The former are very good hunters & many of them managed to live on small game which could be found in ~~small~~ ^{small} quantities at the foot of the mountain. They had many ^{sick} old people, widows with children & ~~sick~~ ~~people~~ who suffered a good deal.

Messrs D. McDougall, Barter of the A.B.C., Beaupré, Norris, Mc Donald, McKenzie & the other settlers helped them as much as they could, but it was a heavy burden on them. I had with me 2 bags of flour that I distributed.

I was asked \$40 ~~per~~ head for cattle but by creating a little emulation among the ranchmen I succeeded in getting it cheaper. I bought 5 Bulls (the Indians make no difference as to the meat) 3 Steers & 2 cows, viz:

4 Bulls @	\$ 30	\$120.00
1 " @	35	35.00
5 Steers & cows @	35	175.00
		<u>\$330.00</u>

10 hides @ \$2.00 taken by J. G. Bastard & Co.

& deducted from the voucher 20.00

\$310.00
By

By giving the hides to Messrs
S. G. B. & Co. I reduced the price of the
cattle to \$28. & \$33 per head. One
of the Bulls gave 1050 lbs of Indian
rations. Two other Bulls will give
each 1000 lbs. One of the smallest
animals gave 5 1/2 lbs. I think
the whole will cost about 4 1/4 cts
or 4 1/2 cts per lb.

+ to come to
Calgary
Exp.

I tried to get the Stonies
(those who were in want, & they all
pretended to be) ⁺ but they would
not. They hear from Edmonton
that at that place provisions
are sent all over the country by
the Govt to Indian camps & they
would like to see the same
thing done ~~at Morleyville~~ ^{at Morleyville} I think also
that they are kept by the influence
of some traders who benefit
by what little furs they can
bring in.

I told them plainly that
I would have some provisions
at Morleyville but that none
except the sick, the old people
& the widows would get any.

I left 2 Bulls to be killed
there & I drove the remaining
8 head to Calgary.

On Monday, the 23rd inst. I
sent 8 bags of flour by a Half-
Breed who ^{was to} ~~will~~ kill the two Bulls
& carry the meat to Mr. McDougall's
place.

place. The Half-Breed charges \$10.00 for his trip & work.

I also sent a Constable who will remain there ^{for some time} & make the distributions himself so that the Indians will see that it is the Police who is helping them.

The Cree Indians at Morleyville were glad to come to Calgary.

When I arrived ^{at this latter Post} here, Sergeant Lander was issuing 90 rations (1 lb flour & 1 lb Beef) daily; ^{at this} ~~now~~ date the number is augmented to about ~~45~~ 125 or 130 —

I borrowed 18 bags of flour from Messrs. J. & C. Baker & Co & 10 bags from the Hudson Bay Co.

It was very difficult to get freighters as most of them had been retained by other parties but at last I succeeded in getting two who left on Friday for Ft. Macleod. They ~~would have~~ ^{asked} 2 cts. per lb. for freight, but when they came

~~to Ft. Macleod~~
~~but in the~~
I had written the
letter addressed to
you or Capt. Winans
~~for that the freighters~~
were to take to
Ft. Macleod that
Supt. Barrow's dit

In consequence of the scarcity of flour it is issued only every second day & on the other days 2 lbs. Beef are issued.

The Indians seem to be well satisfied with that arrangement & it becomes much less expensive to the Government.

The Indians thought that they

they will be able to travel & go
out hunting ~~in~~ about ^{the beginning}
of April ~~or~~ or as soon as the snow
disappears.

I had written a letter addressed to
you or Capt. Minder for those
freighters to take with them
& I had left on my table
when I left for Morleyville
* Sergt. Barris instead of sending
that letter wrote himself a
note to the Jr. Master Sergt.
thinking that it ~~would~~
~~be~~ sufficient
for them to get the flour.
That was irregular, of
course, & Capt. M. did not
give them any flour —
But at the same time
those freighters had left
their sleighs on the road
& could have carried
the flour if it had been
given to them —
Some other freighters came
afterwards & received some
flour & started yesterday
with it —

min