

## APPENDIX "A."

### REPORT OF SURGEON JUKES.

FORT WALSH, N.W.T., Nov. 29th, 1882.

Lt.-Col. IRVINE,

Commissioner North-West Mounted Police.

SIR,—In complying with your request communicated to me by Adjutant Cotton, on the 13th instant, in letter No. 884, of 1882, I have thought it advisable in view of my recent appointment to the Mounted Police Force, my late arrival in the North-West Territory and the migratory character of the duties which have necessarily been imposed upon me during the few months which have elapsed since my first appearance upon the scene of my prospective duties, to sketch generally in this my first Annual Report, the nature of the services in which I have been occupied, the work I have personally accomplished at the posts I have so far visited, the condition of these stations at the present time and their requirements, with such suggestions for your consideration as have occurred to my mind in relation to these during the performance of the obligations with which I have been entrusted; entering into detail as regards the nature and amount of sickness treated at each post, only in so far as I have personally witnessed and superintended its management, leaving to others who now are or who may have been present at them, during the remainder of the current year, and who have already been instructed to do so, to complete the necessary annual reports as directed; the shortness of the notice given placing it beyond my power to obtain the necessary information in time to incorporate it into this Report.

After six weeks, namely from the beginning of April to the 12th of May, during which period I was almost continuously engaged in examining recruits for supplementing the number of the North West Mounted Police force to which I had recently been appointed Senior Surgeon. I left the new Fort Toronto, at the latter date, in medical charge of the newly formed detachment, 214 in number, under command of Superintendent the late lamented Lieut.-Col. Mackenzie, for Fort Walsh, North West Territory, via Sarnia, the Sault Ste. Marie, Duluth and the Northern Pacific Railway to Bismarck on the Missouri, from which point we ascended that river by a dreary voyage of thirteen days to the Coal Banks below Fort Benton, Montana Territory, and thence by bull-train across the intervening plains, a no less tedious journey of twelve days to our destination, where we arrived on the evening of June 12th, thirty-two days having been occupied in reaching this post.

The voyage by steamer *Ontario* from Sarnia to Prince Arthur's Landing was attended with much personal fatigue and anxiety, owing to the alarming illness of Superintendent Mackenzie, to whose bedside I was summoned early in the morning of the 13th of May, while traversing Lake Huron, and who, being unable to proceed further, I left reluctantly at his own request, in charge of some personal friends at that place on the afternoon of the 16th of May, full details of all which were submitted to Mr. White, at Ottawa, in my report of May 22nd, mailed at Fort Berthold on the Missouri river, a copy of which later on was placed in your hands at Fort Walsh. Of the melancholy termination of that illness, I only became aware by a telegram which awaited my arrival at the Coal Banks where we landed on the 30th of the same month.

The voyage of thirteen days up the Missouri was no less trying than that which had preceded it. The Steamer *Red Cloud* on which we embarked at Bismarck, containing, in addition to our own men, who still numbered 212, with three officers, not



less than 170 more in passengers and crew, the former of an indigent class of Missouri emigrants *en route* to the mines, besides cattle, horses and sheep, making a total of 382 souls confined at all hours to the narrow, hampered space constituting the decks of a vessel one hundred and eighty feet long, by forty wide, the greater portion of which was occupied by the engine, boiler and machinery, merchandise and live stock below, and above by saloons and cabins, leaving little space available for the use of the men. The weather during much of the passage was windy, wet and cold, and the men, greatly restricted for space to lie down in, were much exposed to the influences of the weather and malaria (in which latter the Missouri Valley abounds) more especially at night when crowded together on the bare and exposed decks. Under such circumstances, sickness among the men was to be expected, and these expectations were soon verified, much illness prevailing. I had several cases of remittent fever, three of diphtheria, one of measles, many of ordinary intermittent fever and parotitis, and almost universal diarrhoea, produced by drinking the Missouri water, so that my time was continually and anxiously occupied during the greater part of every 24 hours. One of the officers, Inspector Dowling, was among the fever patients for a few days, and for the time was very ill. Much disease prevailed also among the Missouri emigrants and crew, who crowded the fore part and lower waist of the vessel in the foul space between decks, among the cattle and sheep, and a steamer passed us on her way to Benton, when six days out, having small pox on board, which exposed us at every stopping place where she had touched before us, to increased danger, necessitating the vaccination of all those not previously protected.

Small-  
pox

In the interest of the men more directly under my care, if not from mere motives of humanity, I was constrained to take charge of all on board, who without distinction were cared for daily, entailing an amount of labour, anxiety and responsibility, which I can never forget, which seriously impaired my own health and strength and from the effects of which I am hardly even now, entirely recovered, having enjoyed no interval of rest.

We were overtaken on this voyage, by one other fatal casualty, occasioned by the falling overboard, at a dangerous and rapid part of the river, of one of the recruits named Wahl, whose body we were unable to recover.

Several of the force being still seriously ill, on reaching the Coal-Banks, one of the bull waggon was converted into a hospital van, for their accommodation, and all were fortunately brought safely through to Fort Walsh, where some of them remained in hospital for weeks afterwards, but happily without fatal results.

On the 13th of May, the day after my arrival at Fort Walsh, I entered upon the active duties of surgeon, at that post, taking charge of the hospital and prescribing daily for sick Indians, large numbers of whom were at that time encamped in the immediate neighbourhood of the Fort. Here I remained one month, namely until the 12th of July, on which day I was directed to proceed to Fort McLeod in medical charge of 103 men and two officers destined to reinforce that Post and Fort Calgary. A tabulated statement showing the diseases and injuries treated by me at the hospital at Fort Walsh for the period referred to will be found in Appendix (1) accompanying this report.

Sick  
Indians

On the 24th of July after thirteen days of weary travel in company with a bull train, the detachment arrived at Fort McLeod and encamped outside the walls. No Assistant Surgeon was stationed at this post, then garrisoned by 66 non-commissioned officers and men, which number was shortly afterwards increased to 15 non-commissioned officers and men. The need of one was seriously felt, as, notwithstanding the natural salubrity of the climate, the number of sick was considerable, their ailments being attributable partly to the crowded, close and unwholesome quarters constituting the barracks and sleeping apartments to which they were confined, full particulars of which are given in my Report on the condition of that post under date of August 3rd, 1882, to which I have the honour to refer you, and in a still greater degree to the late rapid and alarming spread of venereal diseases, more especially syphilis of a malignant type which prevails at this post to a frightful extent among the Indians who visit it in great numbers from the neighbouring

Syphilis

Army

Indians

Frightening extent



"Blood" and "Piegan" Reservations. It is not agreeable to have to speak so strongly on this important subject, but a knowledge of the truth, which it would be difficult to exaggerate, may lead to the adoption of measures tending to modify the evil, and certainly should render the appointment of an Assistant Surgeon to that post at the earliest moment imperative.

Owing in a great measure to the causes above referred to, my work at this station, both with the force and the Indians, was exceptionally severe, rendering continual attendance in the unwholesome hut which serves for a hospital and dispensing room necessary for seven or eight, and often more, hours every day.

On the 31st of August 32 cases of medical stores for the Mounted Police Force in this territory, aggregating twenty-five cwt., arrived at McLeod from Fort Benton, for division and distribution (the remaining seven cases of the original consignment having been sent direct to Assistant Surgeon Kennedy, at Fort Walsh), entailing the duty of inspecting, dividing, re-packing and distributing them in quantities proportioned to the requirements of each of the three posts of Walsh, McLeod and Calgary. I entered upon this duty with the assistance of my servant only on the fourth of September, weighing, dividing and re-packing every separate package, giving to Fort Walsh the due proportion for 125 men and officers, to McLeod for 94 men and officers and to Calgary for 60. This service by working late at night, was completed on the 10th of September, and a separate schedule of the medicines contained in each case repacked was prepared to accompany them, Superintendent Crozier, commanding at Fort McLeod, being at the same time notified that they were ready and awaiting transportation to their several destinations which they reached shortly afterwards, those for Fort Walsh being despatched on the 24th and those for Calgary on the 26th of the same month, which was as soon as transport could be provided. At the same time I forwarded to headquarters a list of articles entered in the original invoice which had been furnished in less quantities than charged for or which had been omitted altogether.

• On September 15th, having been directed to go on to Calgary and make arrangements for the erection of a suitable hospital, there I proceeded thither, reaching that station on the 17th; and having, in conjunction with Superintendent McIlree, commanding that post, selected a suitable site for the building, I prepared the drawings and requisite working plans of the ground floor and front and end elevations of a hospital, 50 x 25 feet, with a height to the ceiling of nine feet, suitable provision being made for ventilation, and containing ample room for seven beds, the proportion necessary for a garrison of seventy men; a dispensing room properly arranged with shelves and counters, and an operating room which might be used also for the reception and examination of the men at sick parade, without admitting them into the body of the hospital; adding two semi-detached wings, 15 x 12 feet each, of the same height, for the respective uses of the hospital Sergeant and hospital Orderly (Vide my Report of Sept. 24th, 1882). These plans were left with Superintendent McIlree to be submitted to you for your approval.

• The health of the force stationed at this post was excellent. I heard of little sickness among them. The new barracks in course of erection are airy, roomy, well lighted and ventilated, and will, when completed, be superior to any I have yet seen in this Territory. With ordinary care and a right observance of hygienic laws, Calgary ought to continue one of the healthiest posts in the North-West.

Having completed my work at Calgary, I began my return journey to McLeod on the 20th of September, arriving at that post on the evening of the 22nd. Here I resumed the regular medical duties at the Fort and continued so to discharge them until October 10th, when I left McLeod in your company to return to headquarters, where we arrived on the 15th. I regret much the short time allowed me for the preparation of this report, which I am directed to close not later than the 30th of November, which renders it impossible for me to obtain from McLeod the necessary materials to furnish a detailed statement of the diseases treated by me at that station, embracing a period of eleven weeks and two days. I have requested Assistant Surgeon Kennedy, who has just proceeded to Calgary, and who expects to visit Mc-



to send me copies of the records there. Should they reach me before the report is transmitted to Ottawa, I will prepare a tabulated statement of them, which will accompany it as appendix B. (Statement not received.) These three stations, namely, Fort Walsh, Fort McLeod and Fort Calgary, constitute all which during the present season I have had the opportunity of visiting and inspecting.

On the morning of the second day after my arrival at Head Quarters, I again entered upon the medical duties of the post. At this time all the beds in both wards of the hospital, eight in number, were fully occupied; six of these were cases of typho-malarial fever, one was a civilian, and one man, Constable Regan, for whom there was no vacancy in the hospital proper, having been provided for in an unused room within the Fort, a serious outbreak of typho-malarial fever having occurred about four weeks previously. Of these nine men, three, namely, Constables Regan, Johnson, and Tonkin, were in extreme danger; one of them, Constable Tonkin, I regret to say, died a fortnight later, in the seventh week of his illness, though every available means at my disposal, aided by most watchful and considerate nursing both night and day, were maintained to the last by Acting Orderly Constable Allan, to whom I am under great obligations for untiring services of a very difficult nature performed during this trying period. Of the remaining men at that time in hospital, some of whom had not then reached the crisis of the disease, all are now convalescing, one only, who has been nine weeks confined to bed, being still too weak to leave it, though improving daily. The new cases admitted have also done well, and by the 30th instant I hope once more to show a clean bill of health. Appendix (2) shows the number of sick treated by me, from October 16 to this date, at Fort Walsh.

There is only one condition springing from a double source, in the presence of which typho-malarial fever can originate and prevail, and to these causes alone and to no other has been due the prevalence of this protracted and too often fatal affection as it has lately existed at Fort Walsh. One of these sources is malaria, the other is animal effluvia, that is, effluvia evolved from decaying animal matter, either as dead animal bodies, animal excretions, or the refuse of animal food passing into a condition of putrescence. The first of these abounds at certain seasons of the year in all the river bottoms of the North-West Territory, so far as my personal knowledge and enquiries extend, and these are the positions which have hitherto been uniformly selected as sites for the forts and posts of the North-West Mounted Police. The second is generated everywhere under favorable atmospheric conditions, where considerable bodies of men are congregated or confined for any length of time to one place, and where cleanliness and an intelligent observance of sanitary rules are not rigidly enforced. By the entrance of this last into human bodies already saturated with malaria, either by breathing air, or drinking water impregnated with the products of putrefaction, a mixed idiopathic fever is generated, which depresses the powers of life, corrupts the blood, and gives birth to a complex disorder, in which the combined actions of paludal and pythogenetic influences unite in the production of a so called typho-malarial fever, varying in type as one or the other sources predominate, always dangerous and protracted, and too often, especially in youth and adolescence, of a very fatal character.

Both these sources of disease were, on my arrival, in active operation at Fort Walsh, though within the last month something has been done to amend at least one of them with appreciable results. As this Fort and McLeod will probably be shortly dismantled, the facts here brought to your notice, which are unquestionable, ought to influence the selection of new sites, more especially that for headquarters, and lead, from their very inception, to a rigid enforcement of sanitary regulations. The health of the Force in this Territory ought to be exceptionally good, the climate, as a rule, being highly salubrious, but the length of the sick reports indicates much general indisposition and more actual disease than is at first apparent, the greater part of which is of a purely preventible nature.

I propose now to offer a few suggestions and, first, with reference to the enlistment of recruits.



The examination papers furnished to me, when in April and May last I was examining applicants for admission to the force, in Toronto, left me no power to reject men, otherwise eligible, between the ages of eighteen and forty. This rule applies well to the regular service, where men enlist for longer periods, and where the duties ordinarily required are far less severe; but for short periods of service, say five years, attended with much exposure and demanding considerable powers of endurance, the age of eighteen is too young, for the following reasons:—

Between the ages of 18 and 23, which embraces the time for which men ordinarily enlist in the Force, the growth and development of the body (in men) is still incomplete, and until these are perfected the time of full vigor has not yet arrived. During this interval the passions, both exciting and depressing ones, are strong, and the activity of both mind and body great, involving a proportionate waste of tissue, while the reproductive or recreative functions of digestion and assimilation, being overtaxed by the double necessity imposed upon them of providing at the same time for the natural growth and increase of the body, yet incomplete, and the reparation of tissue wasted in application, sport or folly, become more or less depreciated and impaired, the vital powers are depressed, the susceptibility to take on disease is greatly increased, and the ability to resist, or rally from it, proportionately diminished; and this holds specially true in relation to fevers of a typhoid type, to which men, and especially young men, more or less crowded together in narrow, ill-ventilated barracks, such as are too common in our Forts and Stations, are peculiarly obnoxious, fifty-two per cent. of all cases of this type of fever occurring between these ages, during which also the greatest proportional mortality attends it. But it applies hardly less forcibly to all forms of disease transmitted by descent, and where such hereditary predisposition exists (which cannot always be discovered in a mere physical examination), this period, namely, from 18 to 23 is beyond all others the one, when apparently trifling causes will lead to their development. A better limit as to age for admission to this service would be from 23 to 40, by adopting which as the regulation the efficiency of the force would be increased, the sick reports materially diminished and the number of men annually requiring to be invalided reduced to a minimum. A certificate of birth or baptism ought in all doubtful cases to be required.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

AUGUSTUS JUKES,

*Surgeon.*



## APPENDIX 1.

DISEASES Treated at Fort Walsh, from 13th June to the 10th July, 1882.

Disease.	No. of Cases.	Average Duration.	Disease.	No. of Cases.	Average Duration.
		Days.			Days.
Pneumonia.....	1	29	Pharyngitis*.....	3	1
Rheumatism.....	7	16	Excoriation*.....	6	1
Irritable Bladder*.....	2	3	Orchitis.....	1	1
Epididymites.....	1	5	Syphilis (Chancre)*.....	1	1
Ophthalmia.....	4	6½	Sprain.....	3	2
Bubo.....	1	28	Sympathetic Bubo.....	4	5½
Strain.....	1	5	Constipation*.....	4	1½
Bronchial Cough.....	5	3	Dyspepsia*.....	2	1
Malarial Fever, remittent and intermittent.....	9	11½	Otalgia*.....	3	1
Incised wound.....	1	6	Muscular Rheumatism.....	1	1
Debility.....	5	2½	Parotitis*.....	1	1
Diarrhoea.....	4	2½	Acne.....	1	1
Gonorrhoea*.....	9	1½	Coryza.....	1	1
Aphonia.....	2	4	Gun-shot wound.....	1	13
Contusion.....	9	4½			
			Total number of Cases.....	93	

\* All cases so marked appeared on sick lists only once, and returned to duty under regular treatment for days and weeks afterwards, but being on duty appear only once on sick Report.

## EVENTS of importance in the history of the Post:—

Invalided on 17th of June.	Disease.	Remarks.
Constable Hughes.....	Chronic Cystitis.....	These four men had been kept at Fort Walsh for some time, awaiting my arrival to invalid them.
do Laughman.....	Rheumatism.....	
do Carruthers.....	Chronic Ophthalmia.....	
do Colferd.....	Epididymites.....	

Accident on the 26th of June—Constable Murray accidentally shot while en route to Old Wives Lake, on escort duty.

## APPENDIX 2.

DISEASES Treated at Fort Walsh, from 19th October to 1st December, 1882.

Disease.	No. of Cases.	Average Duration.	Disease.	No. of Cases.	Average Duration.
		Days.			Days.
Coughs and Colds.....	13	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Incised wound.....	1	8
Gonorrhœa.....	12	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Anthrax.....	1	6
Typho-Malarial Fever.....	6	38	Debility.....	1	3
Orchitis.....	3	21	Gleet.....	2	1
Fractured Ribs.....	1	18	Hydrocele.....	1	7
Sympathetic Bubo.....	3	18	Lumbago*.....	1	1
Contusion.....	5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Constipation*.....	1	1
Neuralgia.....	1	14	Rheumatism.....	2	22
Excoriation*.....	2	2	Sprain*.....	1	1
Cephalgia.....	2	3 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Tonsillitis.....	4	1	Total Cases.....	63	

\* Cases so marked appeared on sick list only once, and were returned to duty under treatment.

The number of men at Fort Walsh, during the above period, was about two-fifths of the number present in June.

About an equal number of cases of typho-malarial fever occurred in the immediate neighbourhood of the Fort outside. One of whom—the wife of Sergeant-Major Abbott—is only now convalescing after nine weeks of fever. Two others—civilians—were treated in hospital.

AUGUSTUS JUKES,

Surgeon.



## APPENDIX B.

### REPORT OF SURGEON MILLER.

REGINA, NORTH-WEST TERRITORY, 8th January, 1883.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that the general health of the men at Battleford and Fort Saskatchewan has been excellent during the past year. Only on one or two occasions was it necessary to put any one of them off duty for more than a day or two. The exceptions were cases of acute rheumatism and fracture of the fore-arm.

It was necessary to recommend Inspector Antrobus for sick leave. Constable Sykes I was obliged to invalid on account of phthisis.

In September last I went on leave, but while absent heard that the general health continued good.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Very respectfully yours,

ROBERT MILLER, M.D., C.M.,

*Assistant Surgeon N. W. M. P.*

Lieut.-Col. IRVINE,

Commissioner N. W. M. P., Regina.

Forwarded, A. G. IRVINE,  
Commissioner.

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## APPENDIX C.

## REPORT OF SURVEYOR KENNEDY.

FORT McLEOD,  
4th Dec., 1882.

SIR,—I have the honor to present you with the following medical Report for the year 1882.

## FORT WALSH.

I was stationed at this post up to the 14th of June, when I was relieved by Dr. Jukes. I again took over the hospital from him on July 10th, and finally relinquished it to Dr. Jukes on the 15th of October.

The medical history of the post for the time during which I was in charge, or, roughly speaking, up to the middle of October, does not present many features for congratulation. A very large number of cases were treated, and many of them were of a most serious nature. I regret that, owing to my not having a copy of the records, I am unable to give a detailed statement, but this will probably be done by Dr. Jukes. I have notes, however, of thirty-eight (38) cases of *malarial fever* occurring up to October 15th. I believe that the highest number of cases reached in any former year was seventeen (17), so that it will be seen that there was a remarkably large increase. And not only were the cases numerically increased, but the character of the fever was also considerably severer than in former years. And in a certain percentage of the patients—and that not a very small one—unmistakable typhoid symptoms were developed. This, taken by itself, would argue deficient sanitation, but does not necessarily do so in this case. Every sanitary precaution that could be taken—short of pulling down most of the fort,—was taken.

⑥ *Malarial fever* is *endemic* in Fort Walsh, as has been frequently pointed out in former reports. The typhoid symptoms occurring this year, and rendering the fever so much more serious, I regard as due to the character of the buildings, the deficient drainage and indifferent ventilation. The old log buildings were long ago reported on as unfit for habitation, and for a time were very little used, until the increase in the Force last summer made it necessary that they should be called into requisition again. And in regard to drainage and ventilation, although both are improved, it is not difficult to see that they could not be very efficient in these rudely constructed huts, with mud roofs and floors laid on the earth. Other auxiliary causes might be indicated, but it is unnecessary to pursue the subject further, as I understand it is the intention to abandon Fort Walsh during the coming year, and provide good, substantial quarters, built on a more modern system. Should this be done, it is to be confidently expected that the cases of fever traceable to preventible causes will be in the future very few and far between.

The number of men discharged by me as invalids this year was only four (4) as compared with fourteen (14) in 1881. Four others were afterwards sent from McLeod and discharged on the certificates of Dr. Jukes.

Up to the middle of October there was one death, that of Constable Johnston, accidentally shot on the 23rd of May. Although on the spot within a minute or so of the occurrence, I was unable to do anything for him, the ball having passed through the apex of the heart and death being almost instantaneous.

The only other case I need mention is that of Constable Murray. On June 26th, information was received that this man had been accidentally shot in the side



while escorting Indians to Qu'Appelle. Receiving your instructions to that effect, I lost no time in hastening to the camp, some forty miles distant. On arrival, I found the patient in a very low state, the shock having been extreme. The wound was situated just above the middle of the crest of the *Ileume* and the ball had taken a direction upwards, inwards and forwards. This, with the extreme shock, at first led me to believe the wound to be a penetrating one, an impression which afterwards fortunately turned out to be erroneous. The next day, the 27th, I placed Murray in the ambulance and, by slow and careful driving, succeeded in getting him safely into the hospital at Walsh. Here he was attended at first by Dr. Jukes and myself, then by Dr. Jukes and afterwards by myself alone, and after a most serious and dangerous illness made a good recovery.

#### *Indians at Fort Walsh.*

About the usual amount of sickness occurred amongst the Indians, the number of cases treated as in former years, being very large during January and February, while rumors of small-pox in Montana were rife, and there was considerable danger of it becoming disseminated among our Indians. I made two trips to camps at a distance, one to the "Foot of the Mountain" and the other to the "Big Lake." In these two trips, I vaccinated some two or three hundred children, above seventy (70) per cent of the vaccinations taking. The Indian monthly returns being all at Fort Walsh, I am unable to give further information regarding the diseases treated and the number of cases.

#### *Fort Calgary.*

On the 16th of November, in compliance with your instructions, I left Fort Walsh to assume medical charge of the western division, including Forts Calgary and McLeod. Proceeding by way of "Medicine Hat," I reached Calgary on the 23rd, after a journey of eight days.

Fort Calgary is at present in process of reconstruction, most of the old buildings having been torn down to make way for the new. At present there are finished, or about finished, two barrack-rooms, hospital, guard-room, and one officers' quarters. The buildings are good substantial ones, neat and well suited for the requirements to which they will be put. The ventilation will be good, and if they are not overcrowded they ought never to form a cause of unhealthiness among the men. The sick report at present is very small, the general health being excellent. Staff-Sergeant De Veber is in medical charge.

The fort itself is beautifully situated on a slight eminence near the confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers, and between the two. The fall to both rivers is considerable, and the natural facilities for drainage, therefore, are unexcelled. The hospital is situated about a hundred yards outside of the fort proper, at the south-west angle, and occupies another slight eminence. Taken altogether, if the plans which have been submitted to me are carried out, Calgary will be the best situated, best built, healthiest and most attractive post in the north-west.

#### *FORT MACLEOD.*

Leaving Calgary on the 30th November, I arrived at Fort McLeod on the 1st of December. A great improvement is discernible in the post since 1881. An additional barrack room has been built, and one of the old ones turned into a first-class recreation room. This latter is a two-fold boon, inasmuch as it not only gives the men a place in which to spend their evenings in harmless enjoyment, but by drawing them from the rooms in which they sleep it relieves these of a great deal of healthy. The men here are comfortable and well looked after, and considering the



natural salubrity of the climate, they should be almost entirely free from disease. The sick report at present, however, is very large, most of the cases being consequent on the imprudence of the men themselves. The hospital accommodation is very poor, but as I understand that a new post is to be built during the coming year it is unnecessary to make any further remarks on the subject.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE A. KENNEDY,

*Assistant Surgeon.*

Forwarded

A. G. IRVINE,  
Commissioner.



Sask Archives Bd. Ruth Matheson Buck Papers R-E3327

(finding aid GR 156)

Sept 28, 1917 F.W.(?) Paget (?) to D.C. Scott-re D.I.A. purchase of Matheson Hospital  
"Mr. Scott

I can't find that we ever expended anything in either equipment or remodelling the old building used as a hospital-

We have paid hospital fees to Mrs. Matheson for inmates-This hospital is known as the C of E Mission Hospital and was not fitted up at the expense of the Dept."

Oct. 1, 1917 Scott to W.B. Crombie, Insp. of Indian Agencies, P.A.  
-re sale of Matheson hospital-favourable comment in your reports  
-req. whether it is worth buying



Oct. 9, 1917 W. Sibbald, Indian Agent, Onion Lake to Sec. D.I.A.  
(Original on F. 427, 024-15)

"I beg encl. herewith Dr. Matheson's reports of her medical work among the Indians of the Onion Lake Reserve for the mo. of Sept. past and to explain that the cases of measles referred to are resident pupils of the C of E Boarding School.

-Dr. Matheson no longer principal, no connection other than her being the resident physician for the res.

"The Dr. now is also not connected with the C of E Mission except that she lives in a building standing in the Mission grounds, which house she claims is her own property and is used as a hospital.

-1st case of measles, week ago today, "the doctor was called in and she immediately isolated the case (a boy) in one of the Mission rooms.

-sta-2 more cases (girls)-isolated in another room "she has assumed complete charge booking their food at their home and supplying the food and she says in her report has put them in charge of her nurse. For this I know there will be an extra charge, at least on Sunday last she told me she would send her bill. I would not say anything to upset the course she has taken as it would only cause trouble and it is probable that her plan is best to prevent the spread of disease.

Hitherto when Dr. Matheson was connected with the school and the Mission no special charge was made for attendance on the school children whether in cases of ordinary sickness or epidemics but now that conditions have changed it would I think be well for future cases similar to the present to have Dr. Matheson's position with regard to the school clearly defined.

With regard to the present case I would suggest that Dr. Matheson's charges be paid provided they are reasonable as her position in regard to the school is not quite clear."

S.A.B. R.M. Buck Papers R-E3327  
W.B. Crombie to Scott, Nov 30, 1917

-re Onion Lake Hospital

-Dr. M. just returned from Wpg., interviewed at Lloydminster

-ownership of the Hospital in dispute "and on this matter she apparently had advice when in Wpg."



- "I understand that Mrs. M. claims ownership of all the school buildings inc. the h. bldg., together w/all the horses and cattle at the Mission, and that she has given to the Mission the two school buildings but still retains the stable, hospital and live stock."

- ground floor being fixed up as winter quarters is occup'd by Mrs. M. and family

- recommends purchase if its in the int. of the dept.

SAB R.M. Buck papers R-E3327

Dr. Matheson to Scott (n.d. stamped feb. 27, 1918)

"When I gave up the charge of the C of E Boarding School last year I reserved for my own use the building my husband gave me as a hospital so that I could continue my medical work.

All the other buildings I handed over to the Bishop for the use of the school & he recognized my claim to the hospital. i OFFERED TO SELL IT ...& build another for myself on another site but in his last letter he says he will have no available funds with which to purchase it.



-Mr. Crombie toured the bldg. "expressed himself as well pleased with it. It is a three storied bldg. with a steel roof cottage style & a good chimney & upper & lower verandas on two sides there is an outer stair to the second floor & an inner on from the second to third. All the partitions & walls & ceilings are ...plastered with a burlap dado 4 ft. high finished w/moulding. Both floors are covered with linoleum The wood work throughout is oiled & well finished & there are three slorue(?) sash for the windows.

The ground floor is not so well finished but I had the walls lined with lumber & beaver board when I moved into it & an insidestair built to connect it with the second floor for my own convenience.

The building is on a stone foundation & thoroughly well built. I had a carpenter go over it last week to see if his estimates agreed with Mr Matheson's valuation. He told me the bldg. could not be replaced for under \$3000 and that I would be justified in asking \$2800 for it..... I have been thinking it over & have decided in my own mind to accept \$2000 if you will buy it from me."

Memo F.W. Paget (?) Accountant to Scott Feb. 28, 1918

"I beg to say that I do not think we would be justified in making purchase."

-rep. of Mr. Sibbald of 18 Feb. (fyle(sic)No. 427,055-15) show Dr. M. likely to leave Onion lake-hospital at LLOYDMINSTER, 50 miles "by trail" from O.L. "where if nec Indian patients can be sent"  
-Crombie worth no more than \$2000 "in the interest of the Dept. to acquire the hospitalbldg. at a reasonable figure" but property in dispute-

Matheson informed of refusal to buy hospital March 7, 1918

SAB R. M. Buck Papers R-E3327

Typed manuscript-Mathesons of the Church of England -Ruth M. Buck, Oct. 1951

Samuel Pritchard Matheson (1852-1942) Archbishop of Rupert's Land, Primate of Canada

John William Matheson (1864-1944) Dean of St. John's Cathedral, wpg.

Rev. canon Edward K. Matheson (1855-1931) Rural Dean of battleford and Supt. of Indian Missions in that district.

-ran away from home, 1877 (at 22) went to Sk. diocese (est 1872) to teach school then enter Emmanuel College in P.A. (M. 1st grad)

-principal of Indian Industrial school, Battleford 1895-1914, then Superintendent of Indian Mission  
-twice refused appt's as Archdeacon in other areas to remain in Sask.

-John Richard matheson, (1848-1916) missionary at Onion Lake



- 1892 began wk. in Sask. "He had experienced a sincere conversion which lead him to volunteer for such work, though actually in the Methodist Church in B.C.
- spoke Cree fluently, requested to return to Sask. by Bishop Pinkham, ordained Priest in 1897
- two sask men brothers, their fater & the Archbishop's father were 1st cousins, sons of Selkirk settlers arrived R.R. 1815

SAB R.M. Buck Papers R-E3327

R.M. Buck submitted to Leader Post May 23, 1973 The Log Building at Onion Lake

- became RCMP barracks in 1920, until 1924 brief experiment w/its own force
- orig. built by John Matheson 1898, logs floated down the Sask River from Edmonton
- dev. "a small and ieffective Mission day-school into a large boarding-school
- M. accepted all children, self-financed "trader, rancher, builder missionary"
- Elizabeth grad. med school 1898, practiced at Onion Lake until 1918
- 1908 converted into a hospital, two upper floors cont. 4 wards & an operating room
- after death of John, Eliz administered the school for 1 yr, and cont. as Government doctor for a wide area
- 1918 moved structure outside the reserve but appointed ass't medical inspector in the Wpg public Schools
- moved away 1920



SAB R.M. Buck papers R-E3327

Onion Lake by Mrs Ruth Buck (1966)

- res. est by Chief Sekaskooch by T. #6
- about 12 miles from Ft. Pitt
- 1824 Gov. Simpson decides on the Sask. as main transport route from York to the west
- until 1860 all transport by water, then cart trains 1st org'd by Lacombe
- 1892 or 93 ferry cable installed at Pitt
- Butler Great Lone land desc. Pitt, dec. 29th 1870
- anglican and catholic missions built before the rebellion
- yearly prairie fires kept the area free of trees, now heavily wooded
- Butler-extremely fertile soil
- band of horses pastured at Onion Lake by HBC, for use betw/ carlton & Edmonton, York Boats used for supplies
- 1876, 2 adjoining reserves est. at Onion Lake, George G. Mann, app't farm Instructor
- 1883 Anglican Church built, Charles Quinney 1st missionary, catholics est their mission about the same time-Rev. Felix Marchand priest in 1885-killed w/ father Fafard at Frog lake
- Toussaint Calling Bull "a friendly Indian" informed Quinney and Mann who escaped to Pitt with their families
- Pitt surrendered by Capt. Dickens, looted & partially burned, Major Steele pulled down the walls for raftsafter frenchman's Butte & Loon Lake battles
- 1887 telegraph est. at Pitt, when telegraph line was changed, moved to Onion in 1894
- HBC moved its post to Onion post 1885, James K. Simpson, formenrly in charge of Frog lake, retired to Onion

-Wm. McKay, in charge of Onion 'til 1893 then retired to farm near P.A., brother of Angus and Judge James McKay  
-Frog lake almost destroyed in 1885-Govt, HBC & R.C. Mission moved to Onion  
-R.C. & Anglican missions boarding schools after 1892, under Matheson & father Cunningham  
SEE SASK HISTORY XIII, 2 for photo hospital obscured by school

SAB Jack Matheson, R-E2564

Agnes C. Laut "Reverend 'Jack' Matheson, The Sky Pilot of the Crees (Saturday Night, Christmas Number, 1911)

p.28 "Of course on \$600 a year-the Church allowance now-we couldn't sustain a hospital and keep eighty Indian children in the school if it were not for my ranch; but when a man can earn a good living serving the devil, why can't he earn a better one serving the God? It costs Mrs. Matheson and me from \$6000 to \$8000 a year to run this place; but I keep about 150 cattle on the ranch; and all we have is God's. When I need money, I sell a steer. When a starving Indian comes for help, there will be a cow or calf can go. We raise everything we can possibly need. We cure our own meat. We grow our own vegetables. As soon as we can get a mill, we'll grind our own wheat. God never lets us lack. We are repaid a hundred fold every cent we spend. I am rich-I am rich! I lack nothing-\$30 a year is more than enough for a man's clothes; and how many of your millionaire fellows can say they lack nothing----?"

p.29 re 1885 events, Matheson: "No you couldn't understand that from newspaper reports written by men who marched with the troops, nor from Government Blue Book reports supplied by officers who acted the part of hysterical cowards and bullies; but if you had been out here on the spot, you could have understood a thing or two. The Indians were grievously and outrageously wronged. There was no telegraph; and the Government had no way of keeping a restraining hand on its blackguard agents. I have seen their yearly rations needlessly held back in those days because Dewdney's satellites considered and openly called all Indians "dogs." Take the Frog lake massacre for instance! I read an account of the rebellion by an Eastern man the other day, who called poor little Wandering Spirit 'that monster in human shape.' I am wondering if that writer knew what transformed Wandering Spirit into a monster. I could tell him plain. I was carrying the mail between Norway House and the Rockies, and used to stop a night at Frog lake on my way back and forward. I'll not say anything about the living actors in that calamity, nor mention the names of the dead; but every man living hereabouts knows that one of the Government agents at Frog Lake at that time was a Sioux half-breed brute, and the other a debauched Irish blackguard." (I am sorry to insert here that the H.B.C. officers and the other



Government agents corroborate in every detail this version of facts.) "An Indian girl more or less didn't matter; and I've seen rations held back six months till girls of thirteen were handed across as wives for that Sioux brute; and if your statement of that is disputed, I'll gladly go to court and prove it. Perhaps you remember that he was shot by a so-called 'rebel.' The other Government man was a strapping big Irishman six feet tall, an utterly reckless blackguard. As I was passing West a few years before the rebellion, I saw little wandering Spirit, who was nothing but a slip of a boy, thrash that brute with a dog whip till his trousers and coat were ribbons. What the little Indian thrashed him for, I need not tell you. I stood by to see that the little fellow got fair play till the big white bully was on his knees begging for mercy. The Indians have a trick of rubbing dead leaves in the palm of the hand as if for tobacco-it is the Indian's threat of utter destruction to an enemy. "All right," says Wandering Spirit, "I leave you alone now; but if you ever come near my tepee, I do to you like that," and he switched his two hands together (rest to be copied....)