

about in the centre of the thoroughfare. - I called on Mr. Chitkell & on Mr. W. McKay H.B.Co. to make arrangements for my transport to Swift Current, which I completed in the evening when I was again in town, my camp being near the bridge of the Battle river. - Battleford itself is situated on the plateau between the Battle & Saskatchewan rivers. Its population (white) is not over 300, since the seat of government was transferred from here some years ago to Regina the place has not progressed much. -

- This evening I came across a half-breed - Alfred Schmidt - (Robesart) 63 years of age. He told me that his father Alfred Schmidt was a German from Three Rivers, Quebec, and was in the service of the Northwest Fur Company, while in this country he married a Cree squaw & by her had four sons. When the N.W.Co. was amalgamated with the H.B.Co. ¹⁸⁷¹ he returned to Canada taking the three older boys with him & leaving the youngest (Alfred) then 4 months old with his mother behind. Alfred married a squaw & his son Louis was the confederate of Riel in the rebellion of 1870. - Alfred has now a second & young wife, who by appearance - physically is too much for him. -
Nurse comes too late. -

Tuesday 18
fine fine
after. cold, windy

In forenoon attend to some business in town. By one o'clock my boxes & traps are transferred to conveyances of Samuel Ballendine and a start is made for Swift Current 200 miles south. The outfit consists of a buckboard for myself & assistant, a spring wagon for the more delicate parts of the instruments, & six carts for the remainder & camp, besides having two spare horses. Ballendine has an Indian with him on horseback who looks after the cart horses.

- Immediately on the summit of the hill after crossing the Battle river stands a large frame building - the Government Industrial School. Knowing that Mr. Wadsworth the Inspector of Indian Agencies was here at present I called on him, & was he glad to see me. I also met Mr. Ashby

September

Asst Principal. In this school there are 44 Indian boys & girls who are taught reading & writing besides the various handicrafts & farming. It is voluntary on the part of the parents to send them & there are more applications for admission than can be accommodated. —

frat at night

Leaving Battleford we first pass this' sandhills & then this' rolling prairie, strewn with boulders mostly granite altho' some limestone ones were also seen. Fourteen miles out with stop & take in wood as in the following 45 miles there is none. — By evening we are amongst small hills reminding me of the Cobcain in the south. The trail is rather stony & not as good — on that account — as I was led to believe. We camp at the mail station 20 miles out for the night.

Wednesday 19
fine
warm

Continued our journey through rolling dry prairie. Water is scarce & what there is is nearly all alkaline. Several lakes that we saw had a wide snow white fringe of alkali — the efflorescence of sulphate of soda. There is a peculiar ^{small} red plant that abounds flourishes on the immediate border of these strongly alkaline ponds. On the surface of these ponds I noticed today a peculiar scum that looked exactly like rotten ice on a pond in the spring. — After dinner I drove ahead to our camping place in "The Bush"; were another letter inserted into the last word it would express the fact more strictly — brush —, although there are many trees amongst the willows, the whole being on a sandy ridge. We had come 20 miles today & were at another mailstation kept by an old French Canadian — Bernier all alone. — I enjoyed his kindness well both externally & internally. — After supper I chatted with my man Balleudine. He says that when quite young he was aboard to Capt Colliser when making his exploratory trip thro' this country with Dr. Hector, Lieut. Sullivan, Bouyem & Blackstone (the last as he says fell out with Dr. Hector & returned to England). — Dr. left with Colliser from Winnipeg — thence to Pembina — thence west & north to Culebra crossing on the way the north