TO: H.A. Dempsey
FROM: G.H. Gooderham

SUBJECT: NOTES FROM BLACKROOF INDIAN AGENCY LETTER BOOKS

February 6, 1963.

I made some notes as per the attached. They should be in archives if of any value.

While we had the letter books from the various agencies in Alberta.
Magnus Begg, Indian Agent, report for August:

Dr. Lindsey made his regular monthly inspection, and Wheatley was married to Miss McDougal of Morley.

Cut-nose woman

3rd. "Big Road" cut the point off the end of his wife's nose. A warrant was issued for his arrest but he gave himself up and was sentenced to 21 days.

4th. The police blacksmith repaired agency wagon boxes during his 30 day stay at the Giechen detachment.

Schools

Archdeacon Tims asks for assistance to build a residential school and be given a per capita grant for pupils. Mrs. Wheatley recommended for a monthly salary of $10.00 as teacher. See I.A. recommended Haynes take part of Farm A house (Baker's H.C.)

Banking?


Prairie Fires

19th November '90 - a fire east of Calgary got away from section men and ran to Bow River, killing and injuring a number of horses at the "Three Bulls" village below the coal mine. Claims for damages to C.P.R.

Religion

Staff warned to act impartial in dealings with Prot. & R.C.'s.

In December, Beggs reports no excitement among Blackfeet "reference to the "Messiah" - as the Southern Indians have had."

Hunting

In December Wheatley reported "Indians off the reserve are hunting at Red Deer River."

Handcraft

The Commissioner suggested that women make hats. F.I. Baker reported that he could not find suitable material nor did the Indians know of any in the vicinity - what was it?

Staff - Clerk, Capt. Richardson (What is known about him?)
Dr. George and Dr. Lindsey were partners in 1890 according to Indian Agent, Magnus Beggs and they alternated in visiting the Blackfoot reserve. This was a monthly inspection. Later they were replaced by Dr. Lafferty. (Emulsion of Cod liver Oil - an issue).

Beggs reported death of Crowfoot in letter of April 27, 1890 and his diary of April 22 reports that Dr. George arrived from Calgary to see Crowfoot who was very sick. He says he persuaded the Indians to stop their doctoring to give Dr. George a chance to get Crowfoot asleep. The doctor remained from April 21 to 25th.

On May 31, 1900, Magnus Beggs acknowledges receipt of official staff cheques. One of $30.00 was to S.M. Jarvis - who was he?

Wheatley married a Miss McDougall of Morley.

Further re medical. Beggs reported in Feb.'92 that 100 bottles of Cod Liver Emulsion was received in 1890 and 54 bottles were still in store!
LETTER BOOK 1892

RE: CATTLE

Magnus Beggs, Indian Agent, suggested to Hayter Reid, Indian Comm., in March '92 that cattle be purchased to create a herd and from it heifers might be purchased by members with money to start their own. He was not in favour of starting Indians to farm; he also suggested a beef canning factory be erected. The women to be encouraged to make baskets.

DAY SCHOOLS March 31 - Beggs suggests doing away with them.

April 20 - Beggs asks for 20 bushels barley seed as there will be a brewery established at Calgary, as well as a flour mill.

April 25 - Beggs reports "Bull Coming Over the Hill" accepted $20.00 for mare killed by C.P.R. (in 1920, I referred to this Indian as "Slow Coming Over the Hill" and that he accepted $40.00 for his young wife from her lover, though he had paid $235 for a horse for her!

May 4 - Beggs acknowledges packages containing cuttings of Russian poplars and willow, also package of evergreen trees and shrubs from Wm. Saunders, Director of Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

Diary shows a bad blizzard 26th April. Horses died in it, also a bull. Oxen survived.

Three Bulls died May 30, 1892.

F.L. Wheatley reported for June - Alex Stevens doing carpentry. Alex is a pupil of Dumbo. Joe Royal, another pupil to accompany him in the late summer to this work (after Sun Dance!)

July - The Indian Commr. is giving large Canadian flags to the best schools (day and boarding).

Dr. Lindsey vaccinated Indians (a smallpox scare)
July 28 - Beggs reports no rain and no spare hay for police.

August - Beggs reports that the ferry was supplied by the Queenstown Colonization Coy., in 1887. Crowfoot agreed on payment of $25.00 per annum and the employment of an Indian as ferryman. (Later Henry King offered it to Dept. for $120?)

Re: Sun Dance 1892 - Beggs reported it ended July 29 with no torture, though three men wanted to be 'Brave'.

August - J.A. Bannerman, Calgary, delivered oats to Gleichen at 51c.

August 16 - Beggs wrote a long report in which he stated that the Indians regretted the death of one of their best friends "Sir John A." The survey of a timber limit at Castle Mountain. The killing of horses on C.P.R. track and building of fence, the building of (Tims) new school - North Reserve.

August 26 - White Prin(M,C) for Old Sun's & Running Rabbit M.C. headed a delegation to have Rev. Tims removed! He was too bossy!

In September - Beggs reported taking a car load of horses to Regina and exchanging them for heifers. (This is the first mention of such deals, which older Indians incessantly referred to in the 1920's when I was agent and would not let them cæsare bearing their brands.

September - Beggs reported that Indians do catch many fish. There were only a few pike and pickeral in the Bow.

Re: Graveyard, South camp & stockman house - From Beggs report to Indian Com. 25 Sept. 1892 - "A little east of the farmer's house on the lower reserve on a high hill is where Crowfoot and Three Bulls are buried and where a monument has been placed. It is called by the Indians 'White Dirt Hill.'"

Sept. 29 - Beggs asked permission for Percy Prestwick of Namako to trade on the reserve during Treaty pt. in October. (I did not realize that the Prestwicks (Harold and Percy) were pioneers).

October - Beggs wrote Bourne & May and Mr. McDermid, Calgary, for photos of chiefs, also to Mrs (?) S.A. Smyth.

November - Dumbo boys A.W.O.L., Donald McMaster and Joe Okeefe!

November 30 - Beggs reported the price for tanning robes was $3.00 on one side and $4.00 if both sides (by Indians). Making and painting lodges about $11.00!

December - It was reported that a number of families were making baskets.
December 31

The Indian Agent sent the documents re the "surrender of the Blackfoot Timber Limit at Castle Mt." to the Indian Commissioner, Regina. The Indians were prepared to accept an area of one third this size, if the limit was this side (East) of the mountain.

Indian Agent Beggs reports a visit with the Commissioner to 'The Peace Hills Reserve in the North and was favourably surprised with good soil, good weather and splendid hay lands.