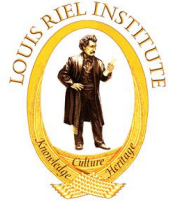


Métis Buffalo Hunt—Summer 1860

THE WHITE HORSE PLAIN HUNTERS.

To-day we complete the account of the summer buffalo-hunt of the Red River and Pembina party up to the time of their leaving Devil's Lake on a more distant enterprise. The return of the White Horse Plain Brigade enables us also to give the interesting statistics of their expedition. They started on the 10th of June, intending to go to the Grand Coteau, but turned off at the "Dog's House," and found buffalo enough near Turtle Mountain and Big Head River to save them the trouble of a longer journey. The party numbered 154 families, including 210 men able to carry arms (of whom 160 were buffalo "runners"); and 700 "non-combatants," women and children. They took with them 642 horses, 50 oxen, 6 cows, 522 dogs, 533 carts, 1 waggon, 232 guns, 10 revolvers, 21,000 bullets, and 270 quarts of gunpowder. They made twelve "runs," in which they killed 3,270 buffalo—1,151 bulls, 1,893 cows, and 226 calves. The carcasses produced 1,964 bags of pemican, 2,429 bales of dried meat, 15,120 pounds of marrow fat, and 9,600 pounds of tallow. We are very sorry to hear of a double misfortune which befell one of the families, making at one stroke a poor woman a widow, a mother, and childless. Alexander Swain had twice discharged his gun, each time bringing down a buffalo, and was loading it again when an accident occurred which deprived him of life. He had put in his powder too soon after the last discharge, and with his mouth over the muzzle was endeavoring to blow it home, when it suddenly ignited and severely burnt his mouth and throat. He fell from his horse in the mid-t of the chase, and was carried into camp. The injuries he had received prevented him from taking any food and he died two days afterwards from starvation. The shock was so great to the widow that she prematurely gave birth to a child, which was unfortunately smothered by her accidentally falling upon it: and the same grave on the prairie which received the father enclosed also the newly-born infant.

Nor'Wester, August 28, 1860, p. 3.



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