

settlements of Prince Albert and Duck Lake. The unrest was intensified throughout the summer and autumn of 1884. The Crees, under Chiefs Poundmaker and Big Bear, became doubly aggressive. A small Police detachment at Prince Albert, an outpost of Battleford, was increased to 21 men. Indignation meetings continued throughout the following winter. The little Police outpost at Duck Lake reported that serious trouble was inevitable. It was learned that the half-breeds had invited several bands of Cree Indians to meet at Duck Lake in the spring of 1885. A Cree chief visited the Blackfeet with exaggerated promises of great reward should the Confederacy see eye to eye with Crees and half-breeds.

On Mar. 13, 1885, Battleford reported that a rebellion was likely to break out at any moment and that the Indians would join the half-breeds. The northern detachments had to be reinforced. The Commissioner received orders to proceed from Regina northward with all available men. Accompanied by four officers, 86 non-commissioned officers and men, and 66 horses—a small force against hundreds of disgruntled natives—he made a forced march in bitter weather. Adroitly slipping past the insurgent outposts, the column reached Prince Albert learning on the way that looting had begun and that attacks on Prince Albert and Fort Carlton were imminent. By the time Fort Carlton was reached hostilities had begun. There had been a severe clash near Duck Lake on Mar. 26, between the Police, who had been joined by some Prince Albert volunteers, and a large body of half-breeds and Indians. In the face of overwhelming numbers, the Police had been thrown back with loss of life and from then on the North-West Rebellion was in full swing. Every town, city and hamlet in Canada from coast to coast was aroused by the news. A call to arms was made and for several months the Force, in conjunction with regiments from both Eastern and Western Canada, played a difficult part. The Blackfeet remained loyal and, with the defeat of the rebels, the rebellion came to an end on May 16, 1885.

The North West Mounted Police reassumed responsibility for law and order and the exercise of general jurisdiction throughout the West. To meet the demands upon it, the Force was increased to 10 Divisions and a strength of 1,000 rank and file distributed at Regina, Maple Creek, Medicine Hat, Swift Current, Moose Jaw, Broadview, Moosomin, Whitewood, Fort Qu'Appelle, Moose Mountain, Shoal Lake, Prince Albert, Calgary, Battleford, Lethbridge, Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan, Fort Macleod and Chief Mountain. No portion of the plains remained beyond the reach of the law and, to assist in encompassing isolated and distant tracts, a number of Indians and half-breeds were employed as trailers and scouts.

Extension of Activities, 1885-99.—A period of rapid change and development of the West followed. Immigration increased; new settlements and mushroom villages sprang up; wheat-farming supplemented the cattle industry. The healing of scars remaining from the rebellion constituted no small part of the work of the Force and systematized patrols were begun, radiating from strategically established detachments or sub-posts.

A patrol was stationed in southern Manitoba, another near the foot of Lake Winnipeg, while over the mountains, in response to complaints that the Kootenay Indians were opposing miners and settlers coming in over the Walla Walla Trail, Fort Steele was erected. Many Indians turned to farming and ranching under Government instructors but the young braves of the Confederacy displayed a preference for horse stealing and cattle rustling. Everything was done to help, direct