

**DEATH OF COL. WILLIAMS,
M.P.**

THOSE who looked upon the handsome portrait of Col. Williams in the last number of the CANADIAN PICTORIAL and read the brief account of the career of this gallant officer, will have felt inexpressibly shocked at the sad and unexpected news of his death by brain fever while on his way home with the men of the Midland Battalion, whose laurels he so greatly assisted to win for them in the memorable charge at Batoche. However,

"The best, the dearest fav'rite of the sky,
Must taste that cup; for man is born to die."

It is sad indeed for his friends in the House of Commons—and they sat on both sides of the House—to miss the genial companionship of a brother member who never allowed the venom of party rancor to break the ordinary ties of friendship and courtesy. It will be painful for the children he has reared, the constituents he has served, and the brave soldiers he has so worthily commanded, to lose him. But saddest of all will just now be the feelings of one of Canada's most lovely daughters, whose promise to brighten his widowed home was to have been fulfilled soon after his expected return from the front, at the head of the Midland Battalion.

OUR NEXT NUMBER

will contain several views of special interest, sent by our special correspondent with General Middleton, and a full-page picture showing why the 65th Battalion have been called the Alligators. The views of the Old Fort, etc., which were crowded out of the present issue, may find a place in our next. We also hope to present several views of the military funeral at St. Thomas, of Private Hutchinson.

**REORGANIZATION OF THE
N. W. MOUNTED POLICE.**

THE following extract from one of the very briefest bills ever introduced into Parliament contains the whole of the first and only clause:—

"Whenever any officer or member of the North-West Mounted Police Force is serving with the militia as a military force, by order of the Governor-in-Council, every such officer and member of the police force shall be subject to 'The Consolidated Militia Act of 1883,' and any Act in amendment thereof, in the same manner and to the same extent as the active militia are subject thereto."

This is all very well so far as it goes; but, while it appears to bring the Mounted Police very properly under the authority of militia law whenever any members of the force are co-operating with troops, there is nothing therein contained which makes it obligatory upon militiamen to yield obedience to and respect the authority of officers of the Mounted Police. Surely if the forces organized for such very different purposes, and under entirely distinct legislation, are ever to be again brigaded together, a clause should be introduced in the bill now before the House of Commons conferring relative rank in the militia upon officers who hold commissions in the Mounted Police. If this step were taken, the respective seniority of the police or militia officers serving together would be settled by the dates of their commissions as recorded in the Militia List. How their respective rank has been established and recognized during the recent campaign has never yet been explained; but, as Sir John Macdonald, in introducing the bill now under consideration, explained that the necessity for it arose because "only by a stretch of authority" had the police been employed in conjunction with the troops, it is clear that the necessity of providing for an altogether likely contingency was not appreciated until inconvenience was actually felt. A correspondent of the Montreal *Witness*, writing from Battleford, so long ago as the 28th of April, shows how the assumption

or retention of military titles by the officers of the police are calculated to produce confusion, if not to provoke ridicule. He says:—

"Captain Dickens, who arrived with the Fort Pitt detachment on Tuesday, is now in command of the Mounted Police here—of course, under the commander of our column. In case any one should be surprised that a 'captain' should rank before a 'colonel,' I may as well say that a good deal of confusion exists with regard to the officers of the police force. Properly speaking, Col. Irvine is 'Commissioner,' Col. Herchmer is a 'Superintendent,' and Col. Morris is an 'Inspector.' The military titles generally applied to them come from their position in the militia; 'Captain' Dickens is an Inspector in the Police Force, and is senior to 'Colonel' Morris."

The fact is, retired army or militia officers who have accepted commissions in the Mounted Police are not justified in using the designations of their former military rank in their new service, nor any military prefix beyond what the law—or regulations having the force of law—confer as rank relative to the position held in the police force.

**THE ALLEGED RELIGIOUS
OUTRAGES.**

IN our last number we drew attention to what seemed a serious ground of complaint—that Catholic prisoners in gaol at Regina had been denied the privilege of hearing mass. Sir John Macdonald, however, explained in the House of Commons that the refusal to admit the priests was the result of a too literal obedience to an order he had telegraphed to the authorities at Regina that no one should be allowed to see the prisoners, this instruction having been given so as to ensure their safe-keeping. On the matter being brought to his attention he had telegraphed permission for ministers of religion to have access.

As regards the case of the private in the 65th (Mount Royal) Rifles who, according to the Edmonton *Bulletin*, had been punished for refusing to attend a religious parade when he (a presumed Protestant) had promised to attend a Presbyterian service, the Minister of Militia, on Monday night, read in the House the following telegram received in reply to his enquiry:—

"Conway, the private referred to, enlisted as a Catholic. He, for the first time, just to cause mischief, pretended, on the occasion in question, to be a Protestant. However, he was punished, not for having refused to attend Catholic service, but for having incited his comrades to mutiny and having used insulting language to his captain.—J. OUMET."

We explained last week the law which governs such cases. If this Conway, who has raised a storm of undeserved indignation against his superior officers in sympathetic Protestant breasts, has really been guilty of the conduct above stated, it was a great mistake on the part of his commanding officer to allow so serious a breach of discipline to pass over with so light a punishment.

MISERABLE MAN and a large number of other bad Indians who figured in the Frog Lake massacres, have surrendered to Col. Otter, who has returned from the north. Detachments of the police are hunting the remainder of the band. Their capture is only a matter of time.

NEAR Frog Lake Crossing is the large white cross which was erected to the victims of the Indian massacre at Frog Lake. The cross is readily seen many miles away, and is over thirty feet in height. It was erected by the 65th Battalion. The Midlanders have erected a splendid cross, suitably engraved, and put it up in the cemetery at Frog Lake, to the memory of Gilchrist and Williscroft, victims of the Indian massacre.

A DESPATCH received from Fort Pitt announces the arrival there of troops under Gen. Strange last Saturday morning by the steamer *Norheote* from Frog Lake. All the troops in Fort Pitt were reviewed by Gen. Middleton on that afternoon, after which orders were given to prepare for embarkation. It is said it will take three days to reach the mouth of the Saskatchewan at Grand Rapids, near Lake Winnipeg. The arrival in Winnipeg is not expected before July 8. It will take every available transport vessel now in the service to move the troops in order to get the benefit of the present high water.

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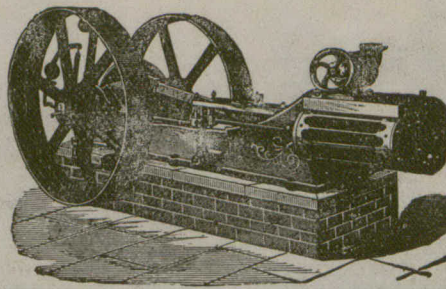
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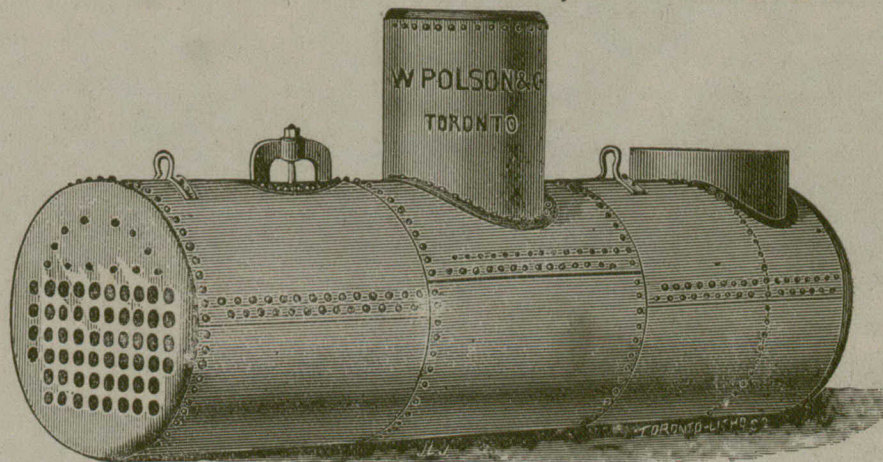
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