

occupied by 32 tenants, who pay an annual rental of \$709.40.

On the 28th November I received over the barracks and lands at Montreal, excepting the Military Hospital and Commissariat Stores, retained temporarily by the Control Department until the transfer to Quebec of the remaining Imperial stores has been completed. The lands here transferred including St. Helen's Island and the two small Islands adjoining, with the Longueuil Farm on the south shore, and Logan's Farm, comprise altogether 447 acres, 2 roads, and 32 perches, part occupied by four tenants, paying an annual rental of \$538.90. The armament of St. Helen's Island consists of eleven 24-pounder guns, the saluting battery on its west side, and two 32 pounder guns at the north end.

RECAPITULATION OF LANDS RECEIVED, AND RENTAL.

	Land.	Rental.
	A. R. P.	
Toronto.....	191 2 8.	\$ 60 00
Isle Aux Noix and South River.....	285 2 5.	4 00
Sorel	993 0 9.	1007 35
Kingston.....	1110 2 1.	709 40
Montreal.....	447 2 32.	538 90
	3026 9 15	\$2319 65

During the present month I received further instructions to receive over the Imperial lands in New Brunswick, situated at Little Falls, Grand Falls, St. Andrews, St. Stephens, Fredericton, Oromocto, Carleton and St. John. I have instructed the storekeeper to receive them over, and expect shortly to receive his report that the transfer has been effected.

RESERVE STORES.

After the passage of the Militia Act of 1855, a supply of arms and accoutrements for the equipment of the small Volunteer Force, then about being organised under its provisions, was obtained by Sir E. Taché in England. Since then, however, a system has prevailed, growing in measure with the growth of the Militia Force of the country, by which the Department was enabled to obtain all its supplies of warlike stores from the Imperial Store Department in this country. This system worked well, and proved of the greatest convenience to the Department, enabling it to obtain its warlike supplies as needed without necessitating it to keep large reserves of such stores, and the consequent expense of their maintenance and supervision. As warlike stores were required for new equipments, or to replace wear and tear and waste, they were requisitioned for, distributed from the Imperial stores, and paid for by this Department quarterly at the cost price in England, with 15 per cent added for departmental expenses.

Under the altered circumstances, consequent on the withdrawal of Her Majesty's troops, and the removal to England of all the surplus stores, fresh arrangement became necessary between the Imperial and the Dominion authorities. This having been effected, a reserve of warlike stores was to be handed over to this Department for the future supply of the Militia, and for the service of the armaments of the forts surrendered to its keeping.

In accordance with this arrangement, and acting under your instructions, I received over at Montreal on the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th November and at Kingston on the 6th, 7th, and 8th December, a large proportion

of reserve stores. had previously at Toronto, on the 23rd August, received over a small lot of ordnance stores, and three of the reserve guns, to supplement the armament of the forts, in accordance with one of the conditions of the above agreement between the two Governments, viz:—"One gun (of like calibre) in reserve for each gun mounted, three sets of side arms, in all, for each gun mounted, and ammunition for such, in the same proportion per gun mounted as hitherto been laid down and deemed sufficient by the Royal Artillery." For these reserve guns payment was to be made at the rate of £2 2s. per ton, with the exception of the ten 8 inch guns required, and for these £20 per ton was to be charged.

It is quite impossible, in the compass of a Report like this, to enumerate all the various articles of reserve stores now in my charge. A detail of a few of the most important items will be sufficient. I received at Montreal, at St. Helen's Island, 5999 Snider rifles; 81 reserve guns of various calibre, with 9079 shot and shell; 6,315,090 rounds of Snider ball, and 1,108,090 ditto blank; 373,656 rounds of Spencer ball; 3290 filled cannon cartridges, and 20,443 10-16 of powder for artillery purposes. Also 253 tents and appurtenances; 800 iron bedsteads, and 1749 barrack linen sheets. At Kingston I received over 7000 complete sets of infantry accoutrements; 4940 additional waist belt and union lockets, and 5000 frogs; 2271 rifle knapsacks, and 159 tents and appurtenances; 1,635,950 rounds of snider ball; 168,187 ditto blank; 6736 rounds of Spencer ball; 216 filled cannon cartridges, with 35,583 6-16 pounds of artillery ammunition. At both place receiving, also, a large quantity of ordnance stores, too numerous to mention.

The reserve stores at Quebec have not yet been handed over, but will be during the course of the winter, as soon as the Imperial Control Department have a little more leisure. The breaking up of the different store establishments in this country, and the shipment of stores to England, and transfer of others to the Dominion Government, have thrown a great press of business on that Department.

I cannot conclude this Report without expressing my acknowledgments for the great kindness and consideration received at all times from the officers of the Royal Engineer and Control Departments, in my various transactions with them; more particularly have I to express my acknowledgments to Mr. Taylor, Deputy Commissary at Kingston, who at his leisure moments, compiled for me a set of store books for the reserve stores at Kingston, besides supplying me with much valuable information as to the method and system of keeping store books, and accounts, in use in the Military Store Department.

I have thus endeavored to bring under your notice, in as succinct a shape as possible, the various operations of the store branch for the past year. One in which, as I have before remarked, its duties have been exceptionably severe, and of this you will be able to form some judgment, when I state to you that, in their performance, I had to make fourteen journeys to different parts of the Dominion, and travelled for this purpose 6277 miles.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS WILK, Lieut.-Col.,
Director of Stores and Keeper of
Militia Properties.

The Honorable

The Minister of Militia and Defence,
Ottawa.

PLAYING THE BULLY.

Some of our neighborly cousins across the line are exhibiting just now, in the most prominent manner, the characteristics of the blusterer and the bully. The Canadians are told that, as the "high contracting parties"—England and the United States—are in every way satisfied with the treaty signed at Washington the other day, they are determined to enforce it, whether Canada likes it or not. The rights of the Canadian people, it is said, are of no account; and, if necessary, those rights must be sacrificed, rather than that the treaty should fall to the ground. Our fisheries are valuable to us; the St. Lawrence river, and the canals we have spent millions in making, belong to us and to us alone; yet we must give up everything, we must resign our interest in everything without a murmur, whether the terms of the treaty are satisfactory to us or otherwise. Such is the style of "argument" used by many of our American exchanges. Here is a specimen taken from the Philadelphia Enquirer:—

"There is fuming and fretting, indignant, protesting and eloquent speech-making in the comparatively obscure and entirely unimportant Province of New Brunswick. St. John is in a ferment of excitement; the Legislative Assembly is wrought to a pitch of fine phrenzy, and no less a person than the Attorney-General of the barren little Province has arraigned England and America at the bar of nations because of the Treaty of Washington. Maintenance of relations of amity between the two foremost nations of the earth, settlement of disputed points of International law, long delayed justice meted out to American citizens and British subjects are but dust in the balance to the New Brunswickers, who regard their fisheries as the most important of all earthly considerations, and who have arrived at the conclusion that their piscatorial rights have been invaded by the Joint High Commissioners.

As both England and America are likely to abide by the terms of the new treaty, the angry Brunswickers call upon the Canadian Parliament never to ratify the obnoxious compact. Now, the Dominion is of as little consequence in this important business as New Brunswick, and if the high contracting parties decide on signing the treaty, both together will find a way of bringing the Dominion to observe a proper respect for the terms of the compact. The rage of our weak northern neighbors is, therefore, as idle as it is amusing, and will exercise as little effect in the United States Senate or the British Parliament as a protest from the Feejee Islands."

The Americans are not likely to improve matters by playing the bully after this fashion. Their threats can have no other effect than that of making the opponents of the Treaty in this country more determined in their opposition. If we are to be told that the measure *must* be adopted by our Parliament, whether we like it or not, its defeat may be considered certain. The *Enquirer* is very much mistaken if it fancies that England will join with the Americans in forcing the compact upon us. Mr. Gladstone knows better than to try any such game. Practically, we are an independent people. We govern ourselves, make our own laws, and are responsible only to ourselves. The colonies are not ruled from Downing street as they once were. For the wishes and opinions of the Imperial Govern-