

"I am happy to learn you arrived safe at Swift Current. We are all satisfied with the way in which you have done your work."

And then another telegram came, in which the Minister said :

"Keep me posted. * *"

One day we hear : Keep me posted ; and when you write to me privately, the communication is private. Another day it is : Write me often ; another day it is : You did beautifully ; another day it is : We are charmed with the way you are acting and with your work. These telegrams, be it remembered, were not ordinary telegrams, but were in cipher. The telegram in which the Minister said, "Keep me posted," is this : I will not read all of it, because other parties are concerned :

"OTTAWA, 2nd May, 1885.

"You are doing well ; keep me posted."

When I had arrived at Calgary, there was the end of it. I received orders to scatter my battalion over the plains, to divide it into five detachments and place them from 25 to 100 miles from each other. But I received no other instructions whatever in regard to my action in any emergency, except this : that Major General Strange ordered me to do his work. I worked hard ; I worked day and night ; I did my duty ; I did the best I could. There has never been any complaint that what I did was not correctly done, and I do not think anyone could have done much better. There is one feature in connection with the service in the North-West that deserves mention. The Post Office Department did its best for us. We have nothing but praise and gratitude for that Department, and the Minister who was then presiding over it. We came back from the North-West, after visiting the Rocky Mountains, through the kindness of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and with the permission of the Minister and the Major General Commanding. We returned to Winnipeg ; and in this connection I may say that I saved a few thousand dollars to the country by forcing the return of my troops from Winnipeg earlier than would otherwise have occurred. They would have remained four or five days longer if I had not pressed, by any number of telegrams, their return, and by showing the consequence of that policy, thus securing their return four or five days earlier, whereby a considerable expense was saved. When we returned we were cordially received, and everybody was satisfied. The Minister, with his great eloquence, came and made a speech to my men. His Excellency the Governor General was kind enough to deliver a speech. We were received most cordially by the people here. We had stopped at Toronto, where we had a brilliant reception, and all my men were charmed to find that in that great commercial centre there were so many warm hearts for the French Canadian volunteers, and they will never forget it. We were received all along the route most cordially, and we felt keenly the pleasure of again returning to our homes. At Quebec we had the grandest reception possible. The Minister of Militia continued his communications with me. He was most friendly. Everything I had done, everything I had written and spoken was correct. That continued until the Riel affair ; and since that affair you know, Mr. Speaker, yourself how matters have turned. I contended in my telegrams to the Minister, and I contend still, that if the campaign had been made by mounted men, instead of it costing four, five or six millions, it would not have cost more than half a million, and would have lasted only about two weeks. It is true that it brought two titles to this country, but that is not sufficient recompense for the expense incurred and the lives lost. Those who have been to the North-West know very well the meaning of provisions and supplies there. There are hundreds of miles of prairie dotted over with only a few so-called forts, but these have no walls and

Mr. AMYOT.

consist simply of some small houses. Provisions are stored there and these are liable to be seized by the Indians and half-breeds, and the duty of protecting them and of guarding teamsters hauling provisions was a work much more difficult than the hon. Minister had to perform during the campaign. I do not desire to take away from the hon. gentleman's credit ; I think he worked hard, and by means of commissions which decided questions against us without our receiving proper notice, by appointing officers specially to find out accounts against us, by arranging his work in such a way that a year and a-half afterwards accounts can be brought against us—by doing his work in that way he increased his work and persecuted his enemies and unduly protected his friends. I am sorry to be obliged to go into these details, but it is due to me that I should be allowed to explain these telegrams. According to my view it was through malice that the hon. Minister, last year, when we were discussing the Riel question, brought in those telegrams, incidentally, when I was unable to again address the House. The hon. gentleman, moreover, took advantage of my momentary absence last year, to have my motion dropped, and it is proper that I should take this, the first opportunity, to explain those telegrams. The hon. gentleman pretends they are before the House. He is mistaken. The hon. gentleman is mistaken in every point of fact that he has brought before the House. Is it fair, when we have done our best to serve our country, when we have made sacrifices, and done no act whatever to dishonor the flag, when, on the contrary, everything we have done elicited praise, is it fair that the Minister having charge of the militia force, instead of being our defender should become our accuser ? Is that true public gratitude on the part of Canada ? Is it worthy of this Dominion that the commanding officer and the officers of the 9th Battalion should be treated in that way by the Minister of Militia ? The Minister did not leave his home. We, on the contrary, left our homes and went to the North-West to win a title for him. We exposed our lives, he did not. We did the real work of soldiers, he did not. I do not reproach him, however, for that. I am glad that a French Canadian got a title, and the more titles they have the more satisfied I shall be.

An hon. MEMBER. No.

Mr. AMYOT. That is my idea. I am loyal ; and the Queen is the fountain of honor. I do not reproach him for that ; but I say it is not fair that the Minister of Militia should use his Department and all his private information to try and destroy those who made the fight and exposed their lives. That is not fair ; political hatred should not go so far as that. If he tries to fight me on political grounds, that is all right ; but to use my expedition to the North-West, to use my private telegrams against me, or to use his special officers to try to find out accounts against my battalion, is not right. I think he has quite forgotten his duty, and has gone a step too far in doing that. If his political wants were less, he would content himself with fighting me on political grounds. I know that for what I have said I will be exposed to any amount of persecution after Parliament is over, but I will do my best to resist ; I will not give up the rights of either the commander or the soldiers of the battalion, but so long as I can I will do my best to protect them in the Province of Quebec as I did in the Province of Manitoba. When we were friendly he found everything all right, but now he finds everything all wrong. I leave it to the country to judge as to our respective rights.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I have only one word to say in reply to the hon. gentleman. He has confined his remarks to defending his telegrams, and the manner in which he viewed his duty in the North-West. Now, the hon. gentleman states that I was incorrect in stating that last Session he moved to produce all the papers, letters and telegrams ex-