

this subject are also contained in the confidential report.

50. I am persuaded it will be found necessary very soon to establish a large supply granary and depot in some central position in the North West, from which not only the police, but all the Government surveying, and exploring parties, as well as those engaged in geological research, running telegraph lines or building railways, could obtain supplies.

51. The time lost in drawing supplies in small quantities over the many hundred miles from Winnipeg would be saved if one or two years supply was always in the Central depot, its position being the only question to decide.

DISCIPLINE.

52. Till the recent changes in the law, the proper maintenance of discipline was attended with difficulty, fining being the only means of punishment. There are now full powers to fine or imprison ill conducted men, consequently the general conduct of the men is very satisfactory, and punishment need rarely be resorted to.

COMPLAINTS.

53. I took occasion whilst among the police to enquire whether there were any complaints. I publicly on parade, after inspections, asked the question, not a man ever came forward, but on going round the men's dinners at Fort McLeod, when asking the usual question, I was told there was a claim to which the men thought themselves entitled. It was this, last winter, when 3 troops were left on Old Man's River to house themselves and their horses, they were obliged to purchase extra clothing, the blankets and clothing supplied by the Government were not sufficient protection against the rigorous weather to which they were exposed before getting lodged in the huts which they built, the labor and hewing wood was severe on the clothing also, which had been bought in Montana.

54. In other respects I think the men generally are contented, all that I saw appeared merry and light hearted, and the eagerness they showed to accompany the party with me to Carleton, and afterwards through the passes of the Rocky Mountains, in itself indicates their love for an adventurous prairie life.

55. I have conversed with several of them each expressed themselves content with their lot, and some said they would certainly re-enrol. There is a charm, about the wild, nomadic freedom of the prairie, which appears perfectly fascinating.

56. Some said they had cause for complaint last year, and I believe they had, that is passed a remedium, it was quite inseparable from the condition of things at the time a raw force, hastily recruited without time for selection, and thrust forth with but partial discipline, or sufficient time for preparation upon a long and harassing march with unavoidable privations, which would have tried the metal of veteran troops.

57. The force had then in its ranks men who only would have been weeded out of it had there been time, discontented adventurers who only engaged for pastime, but who grumbled and deserted when they found real service and some risk of life instead of the idleness they expected.

58. In all bodies of men some will be found who are ready to complain on the smallest excuse. The North West police are still no doubt subject to what gently nurtured citizens of every day routine, with a comfortable roof over their heads every night, would stamp as utter discomfort; new

outposts have to be formed and built, involving exposure and labour, wood to be cut, water to be drawn, cooking performed on camp fires, their canvas tents dripping with the heavy dews of night, horses to be herded and tended with all the usual roughing of a camp life, but they breathe the clear pure air of the mountain or the prairie, their necessary wants of food and covering are carefully supplied, their pay and prospects ample and liberal, sickness is unknown, or very exceptional, their daily lives are never irksome, and above all they have the conscious knowledge that they are the pioneers in a rich and fertile territory, magnificently spacious, though still strangely solitary and silent, which at no distant time will reecho with the busy life of a numerous and a prosperous population, their lives are tinged in the flower perfumed prairies over which their duty leads them with an adventurous romance which was frequently demonstrated, in the long and sometimes very toilsome marches we made together.

59. The police have now no real cause of complaint which their officers are not ready and willing to redress on fair representation. They know it and admit it, but unfortunately there are in all communities, men of sour and discontented spirits who complain for the sake of notoriety, and who prefer either to appear in print or to write frivolous and vexatious appeals to their too credulous correspondents.

60. Such persons (happily, very exceptional) had better quit a useful and a valuable body of patriotic men, they deserve no attention.

ARMS.

61. These consist of the Snider Carbine, and the Deane and Adams revolver. The carbine is an excellent serviceable weapon, but the pistols which were obtained from the war department are of very inferior quality and almost untrustworthy. I hear they have been already condemned and reported upon. The recruits are provided with the improved Smith and Wesson, but this pistol is very liable to get out of order and the severe cold is apt to snap the extractor spring. I believe there is no better horse pistol than the improved Adams, a supply of which has just been received and is ready for issue, it is simple, strong, and in all respects serviceable, the force should have a reliable pistol.

62. Many of the carbines require repair; naturally, in the rough work to which they are exposed on the prairies they must get out of order, it is very necessary that two or three armourers should be supplied, as well as tools and materials for repair; one experienced artificer would be sufficient were the force concentrated, but widely detached as it is in the nature of its duties always must be, one or two more are necessary.

With regard to equipment and uniform, I beg to refer you to the confidential report.

(To be Continued.)

An Elephant in Heaven.

The Royal visit to India seems likely to produce some other results than those generally expected. It is true that the British Sovereign will no longer be regarded as a semi-mythical personage, a sort of Prester John endowed with endless years and infinite powers for good or evil. There are, however, signs of another phase of the matter to which we direct the attention of those who perceive danger to England in the Prince's

occasional attendances at nautches and immorality in his participation in the "barbarous" sport of pig sticking. Unless indications are very deceptive, there is every chance that England's future ruler will be given a high place in the Hindoo Pantheon, by the side of Siva, Brahma and Vishnu. In fact it may be questioned whether he will not take rank in popular estimation above this many armed and many headed trinity. After the recent elephant hunting in Ceylon, very extraordinary rumours went about among the natives, accrediting the Prince with almost supernatural powers. Some said he had shot game with a mere glance of his eye; others, that the largest and fiercest beasts of the forest became tame the moment they came into the royal presence. The most circumstantial rumour, however, ran to the effect that after the Prince killed a monster elephant, no trace of its body could be found. What had become of it? Vainly the hunters searched through the forest for the carcass: On the spot where the huge brute fell, the crushed down jungle still bore marks of the death struggle, but not a single footprint was found leading away from the place. Puzzled to account for this phenomenon, the natives had recourse to their priests, and then the truth was revealed. Siva, the omnipotent, could not endure the idea that an animal which had met its death at such august hands, should be submitted to the profanation of skinning. After taking counsel with his brother deities, he therefore caused the body to be carried off to heaven, where it now figures among the other wonders of the celestial museum. Such was the explanation afforded by the priests, and we are informed that the Tamil peasantry accepted it without a question, in the belief that Siva could scarcely have done less under the peculiar circumstances of the case. If, then, an elephant was so honoured merely because he enjoyed the good fortune to be shot by the Prince the latter must indeed be held in the highest consideration by the whole multitude of Hindoo gods.—*English paper.*

The new arm of the Navy.

It is evident that the Admiralty intend the new class of armed despatch vessels to be really what they seem, as the indicated horse power of their engines will be higher than that of any ship of war of equal tonnage afloat. With an actual displacement of barely 3,700 tons, the Iris and Mercury, both building at Pembroke yard, will be provided with engines working up to the power of 7,000 horses.—Taking, as an example, the Boadicea, also an unarmoured vessel, now preparing for sea, we find with that with an actual displacement of 4,027 tons, her engines are capable of developing only the power of 5,250 horses. The engines of the Temeraire, iron armour plated ship, are of the same working power as those of the new class of armed despatch vessel, but her displacement is more than double that of the Iris or Mercury. As may be supposed, this power means money, and it is not surprising to find that the engines of these vessels will be more costly than any at present afloat in an unarmoured vessel. This new class is designed with the view of keeping the sea, being handy under sail and swift under steam, and will be truly effective for the protection of commerce.

It is officially announced that the German squadron in Chinese waters will be considerably reinforced for the suppression of piracy.