

be d—d fools, don't you know we want the money spent here?"

Like other papers, the *Mail* has been victimized more than once, and only on Saturday last it contained a letter from Mr. E. Brokovski, J.P., of Moosomin, stating that the alarmist correspondence of that journal "written from this place by E. M. Rossiter, stating that the inhabitants of this town and surrounding districts are in fear of an Indian rising in this vicinity, has been the cause here of much indignation amongst those who have read the letter published or have heard of its publication."

While, therefore, it is not difficult to comprehend the purpose of many of the false rumors from unthreatened points that have reached the eastern press, and which the hoaxed journals have had some difficulty in protecting themselves against, there is less allowance to be made for the questionable items which occasionally form part of the despatches of special correspondents. Such statements as have in some instances been sent are calculated to be highly embarrassing to a commander in the field, and it is not surprising that one correspondent has already been "fired out" of the camp at Fish Creek. It was doubtless necessary to do something *pour encourager les autres*, as the French say; but it is unfortunate that the individual delinquent should happen to have been the joint correspondent of two Opposition journals (the *Toronto Globe* and *Winnipeg Free Press*), for the circumstance affords a pretext for the suggestion that political animus may in some way have influenced the occurrence. In its hasty defence of the erring journalist, the *Globe* declares that "the only thing our correspondent has criticized is the transport service. It wanted criticizing." Without knowing positively which of our contemporary's numerous staff is the offender dealt with, it is easy to produce from the communications of an "Ex-cadet" which appear in the very same issue, any number of paragraphs of a character which would justify a commander who valued the lives of his men, and would avoid a disaster, in dealing summarily with the writer. The following excerpt will suffice:—

"As far as I can learn, our noble commanders do not even know from reliable sources what Riel's actual strength is, or how many breeds, let alone Indians, are with him. *Our rear is unprotected*, and we are not certain that, if anything should happen us, the Indian reserves at Touchwood Hills would not attack our transport and cut off our supplies. *If Riel had the grit to do it, nothing is to prevent him from going down to Humboldt, cut the telegraph lines, capture the supplies, go to Touchwood, Qu'Appelle, and Troy, and do likewise.* He would be reinforced by every half breed in the country, and before you are aware of it would be in Winnipeg, and you would be then following in the steps of Saskatoon. Of course there is no possibility of this, simply for two reasons: 1st, he has not got the pluck; 2nd, *he does not know how easily it could be done.* However, no arrangements have been made up to the present to even guard our transport service, and, as you know, we are surrounded by Riel's scouts on all sides, and no doubt he is perfectly aware of our numbers."

Now, if Ex-cadet was correctly informed as to the possibility of the rebels cutting the General's communications so easily, he acted the part of a traitor to Canada and to every soldier in the command in sending information and suggestions for publication in Winnipeg and Toronto that were calculated to imperil the expedition. If his information was false or inaccurate, then he has undertaken to criticize the acts of the General in a manner that the editor of the *Globe* could not deny or defend. No commanding officer would be justified in permitting so indiscreet a journalist to remain where he had an opportunity to do mischief, and, in the absence of a press censorship, which has not so far been established, as was the case with Wolsley's troops serving in the Soudan, General Middleton could not do

otherwise than make an example of the offender.

As regards the transport service, Ex-Cadet wrote as follows on April 22nd:—

"The chief of transport and his chief officer have been with the General from the day we left Qu'Appelle, except when the former was at Prince Albert, leaving the teamsters, as far as I can make out, to do as they like along the line. I understand that there is a conductor with each train, but when the supplies do not come up it is rather strange that none of these officers have thought it worth while to go back themselves, and see what is the matter, though *there is plenty of time apparently to go on a pleasure trip to Prince Albert*, as surely it does not require a member of the North-West Council and the chief transport officer to bring back word that they are living well in Prince Albert; plenty to eat, drink and smoke—and afraid to fight."

After this very unkind reference to the chief transport officer, as well as to the Mounted Police, the same writer actually on the very next day (April 23) declared that "there is no doubt that Mr. Bedson and those with him have done their best," thus personally demonstrating the injustice of his criticism, which is still further disposed of by the *Globe's* "own reporter's" letter of the 21st April, which alludes to the "pleasure trip" in the following words:—

"The telegraph has advised you of S. L. Bedson's trip to Prince Albert, and of the hardships he endured."

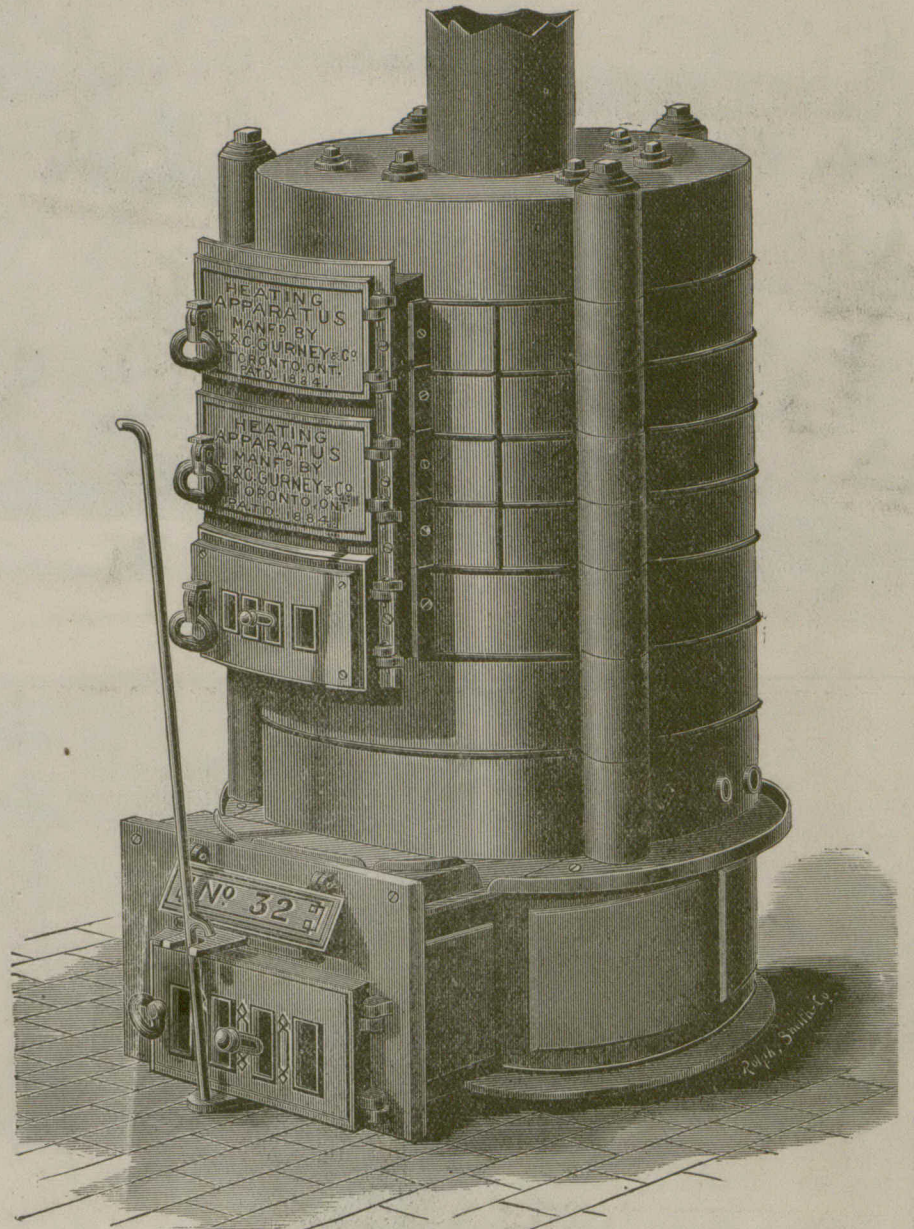
We again express our regret that the correspondent of two important papers that have been conspicuous by their enterprise should have been the individual to suffer disgrace, though perhaps his offence may have been the most flagrant that has yet occurred. It must not be forgotten, however, that all the newspapers have recently published despatches stating that General Middleton's advance was delayed by want of supplies, particularly *ammunition*, which certainly should not have been published, even if true; also, that 200 head of cattle were on their way from Moosejaw to Clarke's Crossing under the care of only four men, which it was surely indiscreet to promulgate; and, again, it has repeatedly appeared in print what was the nature of the Northcote's cargo, which it has been represented was indispensable to General Middleton's advance. Better by far that the correspondents should all be turned out of the camp than that the safety of the expedition should be imperilled, or the enemy receive hints how best to capture cattle and supplies for the none-too-well-fed troops at the front.

OBTRUSIVE DISLOYALTY.

CANADA is certainly "a free country," in the widest sense, when disloyal gatherings of people of alien sympathies are permitted at such a time as this in the capital of the Dominion. The *Ottawa Free Press* of the 1st instant comes to hand with a report of the proceedings at the inaugural banquet of the St. Patrick's Literary Association of that city, by which it appears that the customary loyal toasts were conspicuous by their absence. Neither the Queen nor the Governor-General were honored with a kindly word. Neither the Army and Navy, nor yet the Militia of Canada, in this the hour of their trial, received consideration at the hands of the company assembled. The first toast on the list was "Ireland, our Mother Land," and the gathering dispersed after singing "God save Ireland," a certainly disloyal ditty which was recently in great favor with the black-flag agitators who endeavored to intimidate and insult the Prince and Princess of Wales during their Irish tour.

LIEUT.-COL. THE HON. W. N. KENNEDY, of the 90th Battalion, Rifles, of Winnipeg, was attacked by small pox on his way home from Egypt, in charge of the Manitoba contingent of Canadian *voyageurs*, and he died in London, Eng. The deceased officer was one of the most prominent and useful public men of Manitoba, and the Local Government has done a graceful and popular thing by conferring upon the Colonel's widow the magistracy of Winnipeg, which became vacant by his death.

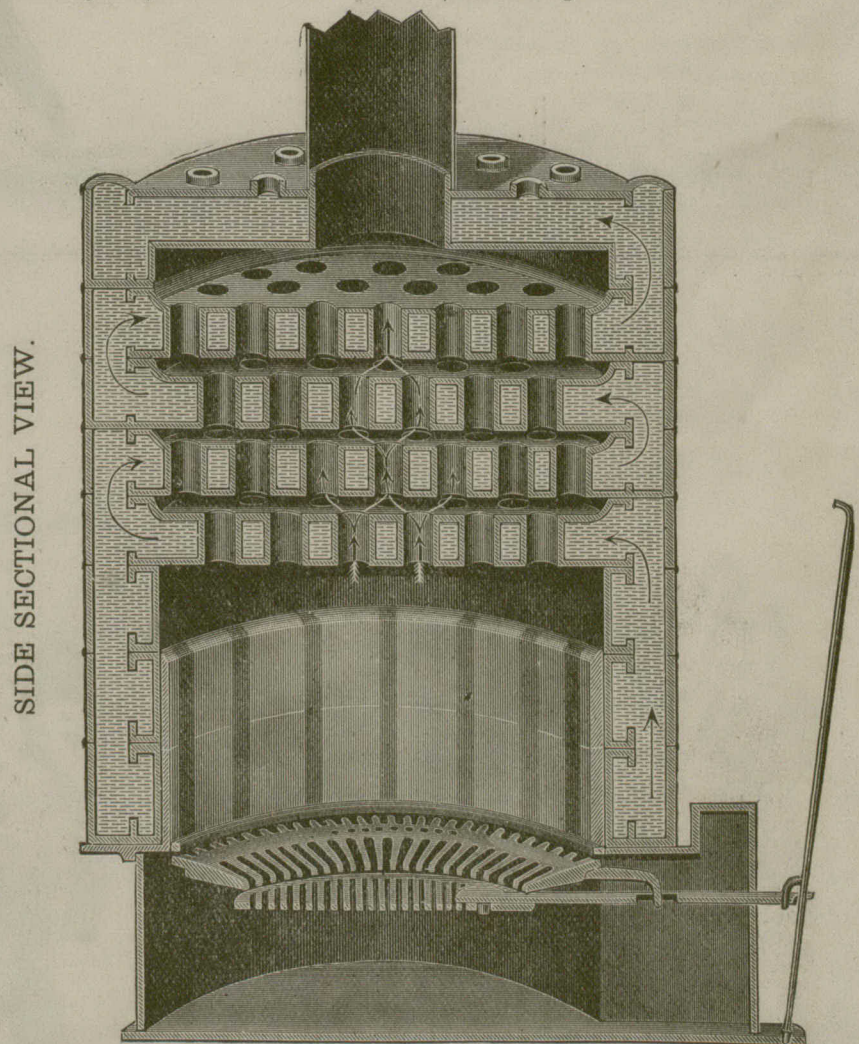
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