

Paardekop, 6th Aug., 1900.

My dear Dr. McEachran :—

We are with General Buller and have been continually marching and having occasional "scraps" since we left Newcastle some two months ago. The regiment is in fine shape and highly thought of by those in command. I saw in the papers some attacks upon the horses bought by you. I regret it very much and write you to-day on the subject.

I wish to assure you that the horses are the best in this army. Two squadrons had the 450 spared and they had to do all the hard scouting and advance guard work, while C Squadron with the Argentines had to be spared for a long time. We have lost very few Canadians and have changed out other remounts several.

We go out to assault a strong position on which are two guns and two thousand men. I hope we shall have good luck there, but we must suffer severely, no doubt. Sir Redvers Buller will be in command, and if we succeed our march will be continued to the railway from Pretoria to Delagoa Bay and assist to corner up a good many. We have had several men killed, wounded and missing, also about 20 horses shot under the riders. One of your big Montreal horses got shot in the abdomen, left side, but did not mind it. We had quite a fight that day, but we were lucky in having none killed, but we had several wounded.

(Signed) B. B. STEELE

Strathcona Horse,

Paardekop, Aug. 6th, 1900.

Dear Dr. McEachran :—

Since the 1st June the regiment has marched something over 700 miles, and the Canadian horses which you purchased have stood it very well. It is the opinion of officers and others who have looked at the horses, that they are the best that have been imported into the country, and outside of the native bred pony, best fitted for the work.

We have been constantly on the march since joining General Buller's forces, and although we have not been in any real engagement, the men have been exposed to sniping and have occasionally met the enemy in considerable force with guns. On all occasions the work was done to my satisfaction, and Lord Dundonald, commanding the 3rd Mounted Brigade, to which we are attached, has told me that he thinks the corps a very fine one.

We are halted for a couple of days here, and will join in General Buller's advance northward to-morrow.

The following letter explains itself :—

Twyselaar, 20th Aug., 1900.

Dr. McEachran, Montreal, Canada.

Sir—Perhaps you noticed in the Montreal Herald a letter from me re horses bought in Canada for Strathcona's Horse, which was not to their credit. I wrote that letter privately and not for publication, also at a time when the horses were at their worst, but since I have reason to doubt my decision on that occasion, as the horses bought by you have proved themselves vastly superior to any remounts since secured and also show that they are the equals of most horses that I have handled in the N. W. T.

(Signed) A. C. GRABILL, Sergt.

Writing to a friend in Southern Alberta, Lt.-Col. Steele says :—

"We had a march of 700 miles and I am pleased to say that the Alberta horses stood the hardships well. Of the 450 which we started with every one came through in good shape except a few which were wounded by sniping, whereas the Argentine horses we got for remounts had to be replaced several times. The Alberta horses are the best ever landed in South Africa for this week (except it be the native ponies) and the officers and generals think them the best horses in this army."

Lord Strathcona on his return to Canada recently, in an interview at Montreal, said :—