

REPORT
OF THE
DEPUTY MINISTER.

UPON THE SUPPRESSION OF THE REBELLION IN THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES,
AND MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE,
OTTAWA, 15th May, 1886.

To the Honorable

SIR ADOLPHE P. CARON, K.C.M.G.,
Minister of Militia and Defence.

SIR,—The following pages contain all possible information that could be obtained by this Department, on the subject of the rebellious outbreak which occurred in the North-West Territories in March, 1885.

In consequence of the suddenness of the call to arms, the efficiency of the Department of Militia and Defence, not at all anticipating so great and urgent a demand, was very severely tried. What would have been, comparatively speaking, an easy task, had the financial resources of the Department permitted the constant expenditure necessary to provide for unusual emergencies, became on this occasion a very arduous and trying one. The exertions of every official in the Department were heavily taxed, and I am proud to be able to report the alacrity with which every employé did his utmost to assist in improvising what was absolutely required at the moment.

Additional clothing and equipment of the Force for the campaign had to be immediately provided. A commissariat system for operations in the North Western wilds, far from the ordinary sources of supply, had to be established, also Medical Service and Ambulance Corps for the field. Purchases were forthwith made of such articles of equipment as were deficient in our stores and contracts were entered into for a large amount of clothing. Stores of all kinds were forwarded with the utmost despatch to Winnipeg, for distribution at the required points.

The difficulties experienced in transporting Troops and supplies at that season of the year through a wilderness can be readily imagined, particularly owing to the gaps of unfinished road on the Canadian Pacific Railway line east of Port Arthur, over which the Troops had to march, as appears by the reports of the Officers engaged. On referring to the map forming a frontispiece to this report, some of the difficulties with which we had to contend will become apparent. The respective localities from which the Troops were