

aboard the "Northcote," also 3 Half-breeds and two Indians, all of whom were brought into our camp and attended to by the medical staff. One Half-breed and the two Indians died of their wounds and were interred by us. On the evening of the 12th we were further increased by two companies of the Midland Battalion, about 80 in number. Taking into consideration the great number wounded, 82 in all, we have great cause to be thankful for so few cases of death among them. After the termination of the Batoche affair, we proceeded on our way to Prince Albert, which place we reached on the 19th May, when I had a medical inspection of all the Troops in the Brigade, and it affords me great pleasure in being able to state that, as a body, they appear to be healthy and fairly well nourished, especially when we take into consideration that most of the men have now been near two months without taking off their clothes during the night, and sleeping on the ground the whole time.

During the march I found it absolutely necessary to make arrangements for the treatment of the teamsters and other non-combatants of the Column, in number about 250, which I attached for treatment to the 90th Battalion, and therefore made that into the Brigade Hospital under Private Henry Gosling of the 90th, who I have recommended to the General to be appointed Hospital Sergeant on the staff. In addition to the transport men, I also attached to the 90th, for medical treatment, the men of the Infantry School and French's Scouts, as also the Midland, prior to the arrival of Dr. Horsey.

For the information and guidance of the Medical Department of the Army, I have the honor to refer to several matters which may be worth consideration, with a view to remedy or prevent a recurrence in the future of shortcomings or irregularities.

The men of the 90th, in particular, were put into the field at a time of the year when, although the reading of the thermometer is not so low as midwinter readings, yet, owing to the humidity of the atmosphere, the cold is very intense, and is more intensified by the winds. The clothing was not sufficiently warm, and had it not been for the heavy and continuous marching made during the cold days, the consequences would have been serious; the great coats ought to be lined with fur, leather, or some material to prevent the wind passing through, even broad leather belts to pass round the chest answer the purpose. Buckskin gloves ought to be supplied to the men, in order to admit of the free use of the fingers in handling the rifle; moccasins ought to be supplied to all the Troops to wear during the night to keep the feet warm and at other times on the march. I would also recommend that a flannel belt be issued, about 12 inches wide and double thickness, to prevent bowel complaints; I would also suggest that each soldier be supplied with a water-bottle—the 90th suffered very much from intense thirst during the four days they were engaged, owing to this want, as there were no means of supplying the line of skirmishers with water who were out the whole day; I would also suggest the adoption of a light-colored soft cloth or felt cap, with a peak to protect the eyes and a projection to cover the nape of the neck; I would also recommend an efficient and responsible person, whose duty it would be to see that the men made the best use of their rations, so as to obtain from them the most nourishment possible on the march, and not cook them in a way that is hurtful to digestion and waste in various ways, also to see that the early morning meal be ample and hot and time to take it before the march out. This is most important, as all our engagements were fought under this meal. I think oatmeal would be a cheap and excellent addition to the rations.

As regards medical and surgical field appliances, I have to remark that the ordinary field pannier is quite inadequate for field service, it is only suitable for a very short service or a review, and had it not been for the supplemental chests which I took with me from Winnipeg, the 90th would not have been in a position to take the place they did in supplementing the other corps, and in attending to the requirements of the other parties attached to them. Therefore, it would be well for the Medical Department of the Militia to consider this matter, so that a supply of