

men for nothing could be better devised than the present mode of operation; so fully persuaded has Colonel Robertson-Ross been of its value that he has provided at his own expense a special prize in order to provoke due emulation. The publication of this list must be extremely gratifying to the Volunteers who have competed, and quite as much to the people of Canada as it shows they have a military force of which they may well feel proud and a Headquarters Staff thoroughly alive to its progressive development. Within this year two remarkable events, which in any other country would make an important era in its history, have occurred—the summer campaign of manoeuvres and the organization of the expedition to Fort Garry under Major Scott. The successful issue of both is due to the energy of the Adjutant General and the zealous intelligent co-operation of the Headquarters Staff. This list shows how well the duty confided to his subordinates is performed, and it is very evident that the machinery of the Canadian army is set in motion and kept going by no ordinary mind or hand. The value of these competitive shooting matches can be measured by the fact that every winner of a prize is just one in fifty of those who competed, so that in a very few years we will be enabled to count our trained marksmen by thousands. An extension of these principles so as to include a Canadian Wimbledon is a step yet before us, as is also that of sending a detachment every year to contend at Wimbledon in England. We have no need to fear for the success of an experiment as long as it is managed with such enlightened zeal, energy and judgment.

Hitherto the efforts at training our people to the use of the rifle as a weapon for defensive purposes were desultory and carried out by local rifle associations, with any bore rifles; on the 2nd September, 1870, a General Order (No. 27) was issued from Headquarters at Ottawa reducing it to a system, and it had been previously laid down that the Government rifle would alone be allowed. The ranges under which the competition should be made were defined as follows by paragraph 17:—"In order that there may be no misunderstanding about the carrying out of the annual course of target practice while in camp, it is directed that the target at 200 and 300 yards shall be four feet wide, bull's eyes eight inches square, and centre two feet square; from 400 to 600 yards inclusive the target shall be six feet wide, bull's eyes two feet, and centres four feet square; Bull's eye to count four, centre three, and outer two, at all ranges." It is under those conditions that the competition was carried on the ranges, as prescribed by General Order (No. 26) of 26th August, 1870, limiting them to 200, 400 and 600 yards—five rounds at each range. Cavalry and Field Batteries firing at the two first only with carbines—the position at 200 yards

being standing and any position without rests at the remainder.

On the 12th of October orders were issued to prepare a reinforcement of 200 men with a proper proportion of officers for the garrison at Fort Garry. The force was organized by contingents from the Military Districts of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, concentrated at Collingwood on the 20th and sailed on the evening of the following day, with full equipment and six months provisions, for Thunder Bay, arriving there on the 25th. A distance of 441 miles of alternate water and land travel intervened between the force and their destination; of this 134 miles had to be marched over, the remainder being navigable for launches and boats. The season had also to be taken into consideration; frost sets in early on the height of land dividing the waters of the Arctic Sea from the great Lakes, and it is particularly dangerous so late in the autumn, yet all this was faced; the distance from Thunder Bay to Shebandowan, 44 miles, was passed over in two marches; Deux Riviere Portage was passed on the 1st of November (this point is 117 miles from Thunder Bay), the north west angle of the Lake of the Woods on the 13th, and the troops marched into Fort Garry at noon on the 18th, the whole time occupied between Collingwood and Fort Garry being 28 days. The detachment were in perfect health, no casualty had occurred, and although the service was very severe nothing happened to detain the force although for over 220 miles ice had to be encountered in a greater or less degree, the entire distance traversed from Collingwood being 975 miles. As the whole of this remarkable operation was quietly and unostentatiously conducted it afforded no ground for the display of the peculiar literature of the age; those well written histories, narratives or letters, from the military correspondent, smart officers, or our own special which has so often excited general interest by the marvellous extent of the writer's attainments, the magnitude of his achievements or the ubiquity with which he was gifted. This train of thought is naturally suggested by the occurrences of the memorable year 1870 of which this very line of route was the theatre and of which the world has had the benefit of two well written historical notices, the notorious "Narrative" in *Blackwood's Magazine*, of which the commanding officer of the first expedition is said to have been the author, and the "Red River Expedition," by Captain Huyshe, a member of his Staff. A comparison of what was really done on that occasion with what has been done on this will shew some startling effects of the difference between the mode of moving troops under a distinguished officer of the British army and the Canadian Militia Department. The first detachment of the expedition, under Colonel (now Major-General) Sir Grant Wolseley, sailed

from Collingwood on the 14th May, 1870, and the advance of the expedition reached Fort Garry on the 21st August—time 102 days. It is true that since that remarkable achievement considerable improvements have been made on the route, but in every case the detachment lately transported over it carried their own boats, provision and equipage at the portages, so that as far as actual toil was concerned a fair share fell to them in addition to the difficulties experienced in pulling boats through the ice. The author of the "Narrative" has glorified the management of the expedition in Sir Col. Wolseley. It is evident that lately commanded by Major Scott has proved that the route could be traversed in a little over one-fourth of the time and with far less labour outside the force. The first expedition, besides the military force, had over 750 voyageurs and laborers, the latter had merely the equipment of the line not exceeding twenty men at any portage.

The difference is simply to be traced to the fact that Major Scott and his men thoroughly understood what they were about when engaged in transporting themselves, baggage and supplies over a rough country, and that Colonel Wolseley had to learn how it should be done, being too confident in his own powers to trust the Canadian officers under his command, too self-sufficient to learn from them, and too selfish to acknowledge the services of themselves or the Provincial soldiers under their command. We commend to our English friends the very useful lesson this item of our experience affords, it will be valuable in every aspect, as it shows how thoroughly well organized our military force is, with what facility our Staff and Militia Department can concentrate a body of troops (for it would have occupied no more time to collect ten times the amount), and how quickly they can be equipped; we need not say one word in reference to their marching power—twenty-five miles per diem would not materially injure them and they care nothing about exposure. The promptitude with which this detachment was organized speaks more fully to the value of our militia system than the most laboured exposition, and it shows what energy, power of concentration and discipline is contained in our Militia Department and Military Staff, the whole working machinery of which is confined to our military chief with three or four subordinates. We have no expensive Control, yet our troops are always supplied with everything they require; no military train, yet transport is never wanted, and if obliged to take the field in earnest a very short preparation, indeed, would suffice to place the whole of our active force under arms. Canada has good reason to be proud of her soldiers and her Militia Department.

The present age is an eminently progressive one, may be styled that of "hard facts" in opposition to ideas; in fact, so thorough-