

A number of the men were repaid by being refused employment in their places of work, and they and their wives and children suffered accordingly, thus illustrating the lines written on the walls of Delhi by a British officer :—

" War proclaimed and danger nigh,
God and the soldier is the people's cry ;
When war is over and danger righted,
God is forgotten and the soldier is lighted."

In the beginning of this year (1870) the

FIRST NORTHWEST OR RIEL REBELLION

broke out, causing much trouble and uneasiness in that, in those days, somewhat remote country, and culminating in the cold-blooded murder of Scott before the gate of Fort Garry. Colonel Wolseley was sent up with a force of about 1,000 men, taken from the ranks of some of the best British regiments, the 60th Rifles and others, and two battalions of Canadian militiamen, who volunteered. The expedition was admirably managed throughout; they had hard work clearing roads, portaging, etc., going up, but not a single life was lost. It forms (says Major Boulton in his new book) the first of a series of exploits under the leadership of Colonel (now Viscount) Wolseley which have reflected much credit on his gallantry and administrative ability. He is affectionately regarded and held in high esteem by Canadians, among whom he long resided and who watch his career with the deepest interest and with pride in his success. Neither has he forgotten his old Canadian friends or that it was in Canada that his brilliant career really commenced, in proof of which I may say that a few days after the battle of Batoche Gen. Middleton received the following telegram from Snakim :—" Best congratulations to you and my old gallant comrades of the Canadian militia."—Worseley. He arrived at Fort Garry on the 24th August, 1870, and Riel only gave up the reins of power a few moments before his arrival, preferring not to remain to render an account of his short but iniquitous reign. You are most of you aware of the events connected with the calling out of the militia at different times, since the Fenian raids until now. On more than one occasion has the country been indebted to its militia force for preserving order in our midst.

POLICE DUTY

is not what the militia ought to be called upon to do, and there is no more disagreeable duty that a soldier can perform; and yet in order to save rioting and bloodshed the militia of Canada has, notably in this city, frequently responded to the call of the civil authorities to aid in the preservation of the peace. The burial of Guibord, the labor riots in Quebec, the Orange troubles here; even down to our recent friend—or rather, I should say, enemy—M. Picotte, and the dangers that lurked under and from his unwholesome skin disagreeable as those duties were, they were cheerfully performed by our troops, and the peace has been preserved. The citizens, the merchants, the lovers of peace and prosperity in this good city of Montreal, have to thank the volunteers for more than they may imagine. It is true that at the call of duty sons have to leave their homes, clerks give up the desk for the drill shed, workmen forsake their tools, the pen of the business man himself is not unfrequently laid aside in order to take up the sword, and all this "upsets business," and is therefore unpopular. But all the same, had this not been done, the alternative would have been that the business, the trade, the manufactories, almost even the credit of many of our citizens would have suffered severely on more than one occasion. Therefore, I think that instead of grudging the services of the young men to the militia force, they ought to be encouraged to join it. Physically the drill does them good, and the necessity of learning the first duty of a soldier, obedience, is good training. A good soldier will always be a faithful servant. That our militia force has

GROWN IN PUBLIC FAVOR

and estimation within the last few years is undeniable, for unlike the treatment meted out to those who returned from the frontier in 1870, I am glad to be able to say that the men who came back from the recent Northwest campaign were, as a rule, fairly treated by their employers. I know of comparatively few cases in my own brigade in which situations were lost, and in not a few instances the men's wages were continued while they were away. I trust this excellent spirit may continue, and still increase. And now we come to the last act in the drama of the history of the Canadian army or militia,