

It would be necessary that each of the companies of mounted riflemen should be made, as far as possible, self-supporting communities, provided with a few carts, entrenching tools, agricultural implements, seed for raising corn, and some cattle. These military posts would partake of the character of military settlements, in the vicinity of which many settlers would, ere long, establish themselves.

It would be very desirable, moreover, that a medical officer should be appointed to each military post, and his duties not confined to the medical charge of the military only, but extended to all the Indians in the vicinity. Past experience has proved that no measure is better calculated to secure the confidence and attachment of the Indian tribes than by attending to their wants in time of sickness, and supplying them with medical aid.

The men to compose the corps should be enlisted to serve for three years, receiving on the termination of the engagement (provided they have performed their duties in a satisfactory manner), the same amount of land as is granted on discharge to the men of the militia in Manitoba; I would recommend that the corps be raised by volunteers from the active militia. It would be desirable to attach to the military force at each post, three or four half-breeds, or Indians, as scouts, who could serve as interpreters, and would usually carry the mail.

At the places indicated for military posts, no great difficulty would be experienced, or expense incurred, in hutting the men, they themselves performing the work, or an arrangement might be more easily made with the Hudson's Bay Company to provide barrack accommodation and rations at the different posts for the number of men required.

In the event of this proposed arrangement meeting with the views of Government, I have the honour to state that the probable expense that would be incurred for the establishment and maintenance of the militia force proposed, would be about 300,000 dols. annually.

I would further beg to suggest, if it be decided to establish any chain of military posts, that for the first year the soldiers be employed in laying down a telegraphic wire from Manitoba towards British Columbia, if not required to hut themselves.

From my own knowledge and observation of the country, I think that if proper energy be used, the very desirable work of establishing telegraphic communication, from Fort Garry through Dominion territory, with British Columbia, could be carried out by the soldiers in one or two seasons. I would further observe that no time should be lost in making the preliminary arrangements. The men and horses should, if possible, be concentrated at Fort Garry in the month of May or June, their equipment forwarded sooner, and the companies despatched without delay. An easy and agreeable march of a few weeks' duration would suffice to establish them in the respective posts of occupation.

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA.

With regard to the organization of the militia in British Columbia, it is recommended that one Staff Officer as Deputy Adjutant-General of Militia be appointed for the province, as soon as the Government