

Dominion Parliament

Several Very Important Annual Departmental Reports Laid Before the House.

The Militia to Be Supplied With the Latest Pattern of Quick-Firing Guns.

Ottawa, May 2.—The annual report of the department of the interior for the year 1899 was laid on the table of the House of Commons yesterday. A very gratifying feature of the department's work is the large number of homesteaded entries, which last year reached a total of 6,680 for an acreage of 1,470,000 acres, as compared with 4,848 entries and an acreage of 776,680 acres in 1898. The necessary to say that in 1896, only four years ago, the homesteaded entries were only 1,857. There is every indication that next year's return will show still better results.

It will be noted also that there has been a considerable increase in the number of entries made by settlers from the United States and Great Britain, respectively, in the former case the number of entries, as compared with the year 1898, having been nearly doubled.

Immigration.
Statement showing number of persons who settled in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories during the year 1899:

From European countries, including Great Britain	20,364
From the United States	9,839
Canadians from Eastern provinces	11,724
Total	41,927
British and foreign remaining in Eastern Canada	14,340

The Militia Department.

The reports of the militia department have little or no news. The deputy minister recommends that an appropriation be taken from parliament to provide for the purchase of a small reserve of clothing, equipment, stores, etc., mainly clothing. He praiseworthy the energy shown by the departmental officials in connection with the dispatch of the contingents to South Africa.

Major-General Hutton, who makes a number of suggested changes and new details, observes that steps for the purchase of six batteries of Q. F. field guns, as recommended in section 30 of my annual report for 1898, have been taken. The order was temporarily held in abeyance, pending the decision of the Q. F. pattern by the war office.

The following guns have been ordered, and should be available during 1900:—Eight 3-inch B. L. Howitzers, ordered in 1898, and not yet delivered; two 6-inch Q. F. guns; two 6-inch B. L. Howitzers; four 4.7 inch Q. F. guns.

The following equipment recommended in section 30 of my annual report, 1898, has been ordered, and should be available next year:

Camp Equipment Complete.—Two infantry divisions, one cavalry brigade.
Medical Equipment.—Four bearer companies and four field hospitals, with a limited number of ambulances for instructional purposes.

Engineer Equipment.—Two field companies of engineers.

Record of Crime.

The report of the Minister of Justice as to the penitentiaries of Canada for the last fiscal year shows that the average daily population of the penitentiaries for the past five years was:

94-5	1,250
95-5	1,314
96-5	1,353
97-5	1,415
98-5	1,447

Age of Convicts. 1897, 1898, 1899.

Convicts under 20 years	131	159	154
Convicts from 20 to 30	637	654	650
Convicts from 30 to 40	339	357	350
Convicts from 40 to 50	108	174	185
Convicts from 50 to 60	85	72	69
Convicts over 60 years	22	30	28

1,382, 1,446, 1,445

Nine hundred and forty-nine are given as single, 488 as married, and eight as widowed. One hundred and fifty-four were abstainers, 842 temperate and 449 intemperate. Two hundred and fifty-four could not read nor write, 110 could read only, and 1,081 could both read and write.

Religious Creeds.

Roman Catholic	713
Church of England	285
Methodist	193
Presbyterian	120
Baptist	85
Lutheran	13
Jewish	7
Congregationalist	3
Unitarian	1
Universalist	1
Atheist	1
French Protestant	1
Disciple	1
Mennonite	1
Christian Science	1
Latter Day Saint	1
No Religion	18
Total	1,445

Ottawa, May 3.—When the House of Commons opened yesterday Mr. Puttee, of Winnipeg, brought in a bill to allow the city of Winnipeg to make use of the city of Winnipeg for power purposes.

In reply to a question by Mr. Foster, the Finance Minister gave the figures of the cost of the Canadian contingents paid under the heading of capital expenditure: Enrolment, including pay up to the time of concentration, and feeding of men and horses, \$34,540; transport, \$35,571; equipment, including horses, \$38,057; pay, including advances made to the officer commanding, \$122,392, making a total of \$808,170.

Lord Roberts's Severity.

Upon the orders of the day, Lieut-

Col. R. R. McLennan (Glenagarry) brought to the notice of the government the case of the young man from his county, a member of the first Canadian contingent, who had been sentenced to 56 days' imprisonment, tied hand and foot in the burning hot sun, for the theft of a chicken, when almost dying from starvation. He quote a petition asking that the government take the matter up, and assured the House that after looking up the proper authorities he was sure that no such barbarous penalty could under the law be imposed. In fact, it was patent to any one that there were shown symptoms of the same thing under the circumstances. He remarked, in conclusion, that the government might very well make inquiries.

The Minister of Militia.

The Minister of Militia was sorry that notice had not been given of the question, as he might then have had the papers. However, unless there were the gravest reasons he would not care to interfere with a matter of discipline in the Imperial army.

The matter was then dropping, but Mr. Charles Wallace determined to have his views on the subject placed on record, and moved the adjournment of the House to do so. He criticised the Minister of Militia for not going into the subject. Sir Adolphe Caron and Lieut.-Col. Tyrwhitt both laid stress upon the necessity of maintaining discipline by the British columns in South Africa.

The subject then dropped.

Winnipeg Smallpox Outbreak.

Lieut.-Col. Prior brought to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture the outbreak of smallpox at Winnipeg, and asked him if it was true that the man who brought it there had been allowed to pass the quarantine station at Victoria.

The Minister of Agriculture replied that the quarantine authorities could not be held to account. The man had not shown symptoms of smallpox till he arrived in Winnipeg. In fact, it was not till after the man died that the doctors decided the case was one of smallpox. In the meantime, he had been placed in the public ward in Winnipeg, and had no doubt communicated the disease to other of the patients there.

Ottawa-Hull Relief Vote.

When the bill for the contribution of \$100,000 to the Ottawa and Hull relief committee came up again, Mr. Foster made a suggestion that a trust be formed which should have placed at its disposal say \$200,000, with power to borrow a million dollars, which could under the circumstances be had at four per cent. This trust could loan to parties who have been householders up to the extent of two-thirds of the cost. Such loans could go without interest for the first five years, and then such loan could be paid back in ten equal instalments extending over ten years. By this means one thousand homes could be secured in the burned area, which would fulfil the requirements of regulations and would work a perfect revolution in the district. He added that the contributions of the government, the city and some of the other large donors could just as well be made in this way.

The Prime Minister did not see how the government grant could be made with any ordinary conditions attached, but it is at the same time clear that more money is coming in than will be needed for the purchase of food and clothing, and this will be applied, in all probability, to a scheme for giving the city of Ottawa, and particularly the burned district, a permanency which has been lacking in the past.

The bill went through all the stages, and will come up in the Senate to-day.

The Budget Debate.

The debate on the budget was resumed by Messrs. Bell (Pictou), McHugh (South Victoria) and Ganong (Charlotte). The Minister of Agriculture is bringing in a bill in amendment to the Copyright act, one clause of which will provide for eighteen hours' copyright upon newspaper specials.

Ottawa, May 4.—The House of Commons last night reached a division upon which budget which was presented on March 23rd. It was a strict party vote and was taken first upon an amendment presented by Sir Charles Tupper. The government majority, in a House that showed many vacant seats on either side, was thirty-nine, and stood 87 for or 48 against.

Sir Charles Tupper's amendment was in the following sense:

"That this House is of opinion that a system of mutual trade preference between Great Britain and Ireland and the colonies would greatly stimulate increased production in and commerce between these countries, and would thus promote and maintain the utility of the Empire; and that no measure of preference that falls short of the complete realization of such a policy should be considered as final or satisfactory."

Day in the House.

At the opening of the House the Minister of Militia read the dispatch that had been received from the officer commanding the first contingent regarding casualties on April 30th and May 1st.

In reply to a question by Mr. E. F. Clarke (Toronto) the Minister of Militia stated that contracts containing the clause against sweating existed with the Sanford Manufacturing Company for \$115,000 and with Mark Workman, of Montreal, for \$36,000.

Soulanges and Beauharnois Canals.

Before the orders of the day were called Mr. Bergeron asked whether the Soulanges and Beauharnois canals were both to be kept open this season.

The Minister of Militia and Defence replied that it had not been concluded to close the Beauharnois canal this season. The old canal would be used for the smaller vessels and the Soulanges canal for the larger vessels.

Insurance on First Contingent.

The Minister of Militia took occasion to refer to the strictures of Sir Charles Tupper some weeks since upon the Militia Department for failure to secure from the war office an official list of the killed and wounded in the first Canadian contingent, without which the Ocean Accident & Guarantee Corporation would not settle with claimants upon it. He had received a request for this information on March 19th from the company in question and had both writ-

ten and cabled for the information but had been, up to this date, unable to get it. The high commissioner in London had pointed out that the list already furnished by the Governor of Cape Colony was the official list and that it was upon the same information that the war office would make up its list and upon this same information that other insurance companies had already settled for death claims. Dr. Borden will furnish Sir Charles Tupper, who is acting for the company, with a copy of this list.

Montreal Rifle Range.

Mr. Monk (Jacques Cartier) had heard that the Minister of Militia had purchased a rifle range in the vicinity of Montreal for \$65,000 and asked the Minister what foundation there was for the report.

Dr. Borden responded that a range had been secured near Pointe aux Trembles, on what was known as the Andrews site. It would afford the desired range for the new rifle of the Canadian militia, and had been recommended by General Hutton, a board of officers and by the Montreal garrison as most suitable. The price was fixed by a committee determined, but he could assure Mr. Monk it would be much less than the sum mentioned by Mr. Monk.

The budget debate was then resumed by Mr. Hector McDougall (Cape Breton) and continued by Messrs. Neil, Bonarville, Sir Adolphe Caron, Snelgrove (Cornwall), Beattie (London), Logan (Cumberland), Marcotte (Charlevoix) and Savard (Chicoutimi).

The debate lasted till within a few minutes of 1 o'clock, when the bells sounded for a division upon Sir Charles Tupper's amendment.

The members amused themselves in the few minutes which intervened before the vote was taken in singing of "Canada Ma Patrie" and "Le Brigadier."

Mr. Fielding Explains.

Mr. Fielding said that before the debate closed he wished to say a word not in the way of a general discussion of the budget question, but particularly in regard to a matter of personal difference between Sir Charles Tupper and himself. In his budget speech he had referred with particular pleasure to the great iron and steel industry now attracting so much attention in Sydney, legislation touching it, but because of any part he might have in Dominion legislation touching it, but because of his own earlier connection with the movement which led to the foundation of the present business. When he was Premier of Nova Scotia his government introduced and carried through the legislation what was known as the Dominion coal scheme, an arrangement made with Mr. E. N. Whitney, of Boston, and his associates. This scheme was bitterly attacked by the Conservative party of Nova Scotia. It was followed to Ottawa, where a number of the Conservative members waited on the Governor-General and asked him to interfere and prevent the consummation of the scheme. In view of all this he (Mr. Fielding) felt a justifiable pleasure in noting that the scheme had been of great advantage to the province of Nova Scotia and out of it had sprung this new enterprise of the Dominion Iron & Steel Company.

Sir Charles Tupper.

Sir Charles Tupper, who spoke later, made some reference to the same matter. He did not refer to the real point of Mr. Fielding's remarks, namely, the success of the Dominion Coal Company, but had dwelt on the Dominion legislation in regard to the iron boundaries and had made some reference to this connection which Mr. Fielding now attributed to take notice of. The substance of Sir Charles's statements were that Mr. Fielding when asked to encourage the works of Sydney flatly refused, and that the promoters had gone away discouraged, by Mr. Fielding's refusal to state the source of this information.

Sir Charles had replied by giving the names of Mr. Graham Fraser, of New Glasgow, and Mr. H. N. Whitney, of Boston. Mr. Fielding said that he had had no communications with Mr. Graham Fraser on this subject, consequently it was not possible that he could have made the statement attributed to him by Sir Charles Tupper that there were negotiations with Mr. Whitney, and Mr. Fielding thought it right to place himself in communication with that gentleman and with his solicitor, Mr. W. B. Ross, of Halifax, who had been chiefly concerned in the negotiations. Without further remark he would now submit to the House his correspondence with these gentlemen.

Corroborative Letter.

Mr. Ross's letter says: "I know that the government never at any stage refused, to consider the question of extending the business, nor did any member of the government, after the matter was first presented to the government. Sir Charles Tupper had no more to do in the matter than any other member of the opposition."

Mr. Whitney's reply was: "So far as I am concerned Sir Charles is in error. It is not simply justice to Mr. Fielding to say that from the moment of my first presentation of this subject to him it has received his hearty encouragement and unvarying support."

Relief Measure Adopted.

In the Senate a number of bills were received from the House of Commons, amongst them the supplementary supply bill providing for the grant to the Ottawa relief fund, and for the rebuilding of the Hull post office, \$20,000, and for the reconstruction of the bridges over the Chaudiere, \$21,000.

The bill passed all its stages and it was ordered that a message be sent to the House of Commons informing it that the Senate had passed the bill.

FIRE IN THE STATES.

New York, May 10.—At the annual convention of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, H. C. Irvin, of Philadelphia, the retiring president, reviewed the events of the year, and said that the fact which must impress itself upon insurance men as of the most serious importance to the enormous loss of the country, which amounted in 1899 to \$153,537,850. Mr. Irvin said:

"If we may judge from such records as are accessible, property in the United States is burning in greater proportion to value than in any other in the world. This is the more startling when the destruction goes on in a year like the one under review, when business generally is admitted to have been good."

Sam Hughes Under Fire

The Colonel Sends a Vivid Description of an Encounter With the Boers.

No Casualties on British Side but Enemy Lost Half a Dozen Men.

Quartermaster Williamson, of Lind-say, has received the following letter from Col. Hughes:

Karee Kloof, South Africa, March 14th, 1900.

My Dear Jack—Well, I have commanded already in two little battles, and each time have beaten ten times my own numbers and not had one man hit, other than one fellow getting the end of the little toe ticked. He tied it up, cut a hole out of his boot and attends to all his duties as usual. Last Saturday, March 10th, I went out with 80 men of Orpen's Horse to reconnoitre the Boer position, ten or twelve miles from here. We chased eight or nine early in the morning, capturing one, my men servants, Turpin, of Cobourg, and Phillips of Belleville, being both in the capture, Turpin being leader. I was under orders not to attack, otherwise I could easily have bagged the lot. Well, we proceeded for five miles more, towards the house, where I was to have dinner. As we got there two Boers galloped off at a distance of 1,200 yards. Just as we were getting nose-bags on horses, etc., a perfect cloud of Boers appeared on a hill about 2,000 yards off, and galloped into a larger and dam, about 1,200 or 1,500 yards away, and at once opened fire with Mausers. As the Boers were under cover behind the house, and disposed of my men. We faced northeast. On our right was a long level ridge sloping gently towards us. On our right front was a long level for miles. In front the ground sloped gently down (just as from the Collegiate Institute to Britton's) the larger and about the same distance. Behind their larger the ground sloped rapidly back for 500 yards, finally rising abruptly in a steep hill or kopje. That hill rose about 400 feet and circled widely around our left front, left flank, and gradually spread out on our left rear. The ground in which we were extended along to our left for about 1,200 yards, then rounded back to our left rear, the declivity to the lower flat there being precipitous; finally continuing the round almost completed, on our standing ground, a circle, terminating in a small valley which gradually merged into the plain immediately behind us. From the crest of the high ridge on my left to the high ridge was about 2,500 yards. Between lay a lovely flat plain; but in my left rear where the valley ended, the two plains, i.e., mine and the higher one, merged into each other in a series of irregular little ravines.

Boer Tactics Thwarted.

The Boers would send out a man every now and again at the full gallop, and in ten or twenty minutes groups came galloping back. I thought this a good chance to get my fellows into good humor, who were all, but three, perfectly new. So I would pick a few men to pot at each squad as they galloped into the laager—5, 23, 7, 10, 15, etc., came at various intervals for three-quarters of an hour, until by actual count we were in the laager alone upwards of 150. I at once saw a chance to bag the entire outfit, so sent my bicycle rider back to camp to come out with artillery if possible. It was then 1:45; I hardly thought it could get out, but the trial was worth making. About 2 o'clock about fifty Boers appeared from some other direction, on the crest of the sloping ground on our right; about seventy-five more came over the high ridge on our left front and began circling around our left and left rear. I had long previously sent my servant Turpin, who is a worthy successor to the name "Turpin," with seven men away to the brow of this left ridge. They had been distributed to cover about three-quarters of a mile. I saw they could not cover our left rear also, so sent out 14 men under Lieut. Macdonald to the left rear. Even before they had reached their halting ground the boys under Turpin had driven back forty Boers who, not knowing we were "on deck," had rashly advanced. They took back all their horses, but left one man as a memento on the plain 600 yards in front of us. However, before Macdonald's party could reach our left rear position, their horses being almost done out, the Boers were in the ravines. From the house-top I clearly saw them trying to entice the boys far to their front, and deliberately potting at Macdonald and his men riding out. I had only seven men left and a couple of them were watching the horses. However, Phillips of Belleville, my groom, and a dandy shot, could be trusted to keep a good eye on our front and right. So I fired a couple of 1500 yards shots at the Boers. Visible from the house, for the ravines circled around so that we could see for quite a distance down their valleys. But I feared Macdonald would get it hot. He was already within 600 yards, had dismounted and was extending his men, though slowly for they had never had but one rifle before that day.

Sam Fires a Shot.

So I jumped down, ran straight to our rear, curved towards the ravines, having gotten on the leeward crest of the high ravine, and at about 450 yards opened fire. Say, it was simply laughable to see the bewildered look of the Boer as my first shot tore up the earth by his left ear. But, having found my bearings, succeeding shots hit closer. In less than a minute every Boer ran helter-skelter and got on a ridge further around the curve—but as I lost sight of them in the bushes, after my fifth shot I could not crack them any more. For evident reasons the two Boers nearest me were not so active in getting away alone. I then ran back to the house—three quar-

ters of a mile—and found the five lads on the house-top doing beautiful work. Two kept quietly potting at the larger and making them afraid to show a head, while three of them had driven back the crowd on our right to fully 2,500 yards. We distinctly saw one man fall, saw the crowd gather around him and tie him across a horse, then all galloped off to their laager, rounding into it. Before this Macdonald and his party had cleared out the swamp on our left, sending them away over the high ridges helterskelter. There were some cases of two men on one horse, showing a few horses were bowled over; but the nearest sight of all was to see them, two pairs, each carrying a man from saddle to saddle. We know of the three already returned to the laager, and the one on the right, besides one fellow hit in the morning, being bowled over by our boys. But the best was to come. At five o'clock my bicycle returned with a note, stating it was impossible to get the guns up before dark and ordering my retirement to camp. The general feared that 30 against 300 was not enough.

On the Return.

Well, having driven them from every position except their laager, we rightly felt proud. I recall the flanking parties and set out for camp. After going about four miles we were fired on by another party from our right rear at about 600 yards. Our horses were played out, and some could hardly move along. Yet all the boys were game. The bullet striking the extreme end of the rider's little toe. I at once sent Phillips, 15 men at a gallop to a house and sheep kraal on our line of march, about 400 yards, and dismounted the balance. Their horses I sent on to the kraal. While this was being done, I, anxious to draw the fire from the larger body, had ridden out on the right, about 50 yards, on the side towards the Boers. Being the only one mounted, I drew their full fire. My horse and I were scattered with dust, and the Mausers' music was already familiar. Finally I got the lads extended, and in an instant they silenced the Boers. Leaving them there I galloped to the kraal, got the fellows into position, and allowed the other party to retire in perfect safety. We then laid a trap. Firing ceased. It was about sunset. I sent on a portion of the troop, the others lying low. One Boer raced down—their head fallen back previously on foot. When near the fallen horse, two more on horseback rushed after him. We waited till all were at the house, and let go. Whew! The first volley was mostly short. The second was beautiful, simply delightful. One fellow, the bold one who dashed out on foot, was doubled up and fell in a heap like a bundle of rags. Both horses were hit, and we since learn, both men. As my orders were imperative—I had them in writing from the general—not to attack, I was of course obliged to continue the home-guard march. Our casualties were nil, for the wounded fellow has not missed his duty, and was in the field again yesterday in my second victory.

The enemy's casualties we know to be five, and suspected them to be six. They were eight, we since learn from a farmer, who was told by one of them selves. We lost one horse; they lost five. We had 30 men, or, counting myself, my servant Turpin and groom Phillips, there were 33. We lost no prisoners, but Turpin captured one man, horse, etc., complete.

About a Capture.

It was laughable to see the capture. My orders were positive not to attack but to retire, if fired on, viz., as judiciously as possible, for only a very small part of our force was then up at the base. They are since coming in and in another day or two we will be ready. Well, when we sighted the Boers I ordered a halt. Finally I decided to give them a dash of half a mile, instructing the line to watch my signal to halt. The fun was too exciting. We got going—ran them three-quarters of a mile and seeing a ridge ahead, behind which they were hiding, we dashed forward. I signalled, by whistle and hand, a halt. All halted except my own two servants and Sergt-Major Forsythe and my bicycle rider and interpreter Springhall. I sent Corporal Turner after them to halt them. I then joined the chase over the crest. When I halted I shot a shot at the enemy. It transpires it winged one of them in the rib, but not seriously. Turpin led, and throwing his rifle reined fire, fired as he galloped. There were three others who rounded to, to surround. Seeing our fellows all going to the one prisoner they put spurs to their horses and made off. Phillips meantime put a ball through a fine black horse and they went off under difficulties. The balance of the crowd also escaped, some five who cut off to the right early in the game. There were many close calls on our side. While Turpin was lunching on the ridge, his beef can was knocked by a bullet as he was drinking. Helms were hit, etc. We made the prisoner carry water to the outer lines under fire. They evidently knew their men under a guard, for not many bullets fell near him. As I had to visit every part of the field several times, and as my uniform has (foolishly I find) been washed several times, showing no longer khaki but almost white, Turpin says I could be picked out two miles off. That may account for the fact that so much attention was paid to me as I walked or rode over the field—every shot at me was one less at somebody else, and I felt that that day I was not to be hit by a Boer. Some other day I may get a clip, but "a miss is as good as a mile."

Of course this was only a "scrap."

At Belmont the Boers against Lord Methuen had not ten times as many, as we against our little band of 30. The men were so handled that I brought every one into camp singing songs, as jolly as larks, and we knocked over placed in the kiln in nests, one within another, where they are allowed to remain from eighteen to twenty-four hours. If it is desired to have them very hard, they are burned an hour or two longer, and the fire is kept at a white heat—Spore Moments.

OUR NARROW ESCAPE.

Hamilton Herald.

It is perfectly dreadful to think of the literature that would have come from Col. Sam Hughes's pen if it had been instead of Col. Otter who was hit twice by Boer bullets.

I saw two of our men in full gallop in for artillery. They had been driven in from outposts, had one man wounded, and were being surrounded. Fortunately, I had my servant Turpin, my interpreter Springhall, and Mr. Chapman, whose cart we rode in, and my guide, all with rifles. We ran the gauntlet, and reached the place all right. I found the officer was relying on purely defensive movements; but as the enemy could easily get on a ridge within 300 yards of house and kraals, I decided to seize the ridge and hold it, as I had done at Scheffer's Dam. So I took about twenty men—the garrison was forty-eight—and mounted the ridge. We were just in time. Coming up the slope on the other side, about 500 yards away, was the enemy, in all about 80, while on the hills on every side, and towards our main camp, they rode about in clouds. Twenty minutes sufficed to scoop the lot on our side, and in less than an hour we had driven off every man. They are the most infernal lot of cowards I ever heard of. Every man against me at Scheffer's Dam, except 60 who had Martini, was armed with Mausers. All the crowd yesterday had Mausers. The fellow wounded about noon had a beautiful hole through his leg—a Mauser's no tear, just like a mosquito bite, only it was all hole.

A Battle Ahead.

Now, in about three days' time our forces will all be ready. There are well our estimates of the Boers in this locality. The prisoner says they have 5,000 within twenty miles. We have not half that force, but the greater will be the glory. There are no reports with us. So the world hears nothing of us. Col. Adye, commanding one of our columns thirty miles south, got a retirement with some loss, a few days ago. So far we have been lucky. I have had two scraps, and won against ten times the number, each time with no loss, but in the first scrap eight of the enemy fell. Yesterday all we know of is two horses of the enemy hit. There may be an odd man or two, but as yet we do not know.

This is the finest sport I ever had. In the big arena, an ordinary peasant colonel is nothing more than a private. Here, I bossed both of the shows, and in the big scrap coming on in a few days, much of the plan of battle will, as a matter of course, depend on my reports of positions, nature of ground, water supply and strength of the enemy. Already our plans are ready; we only await a few more detachments of men. And then—what will it be? Victory or defeat? Victory, I predict. But we cannot expect to come off as well in all scraps as in my two. Some poor fellows must go over, although by an officer taking no risks he alone can save many a man.

I have not heard a word of news for more than a week. Thus far good luck has followed me in the scrapping. Let it continue to the end. I am in my element. My opinion of the Boers is cowardly, full of cunning, tricky, treacherous, a poor shot, or I would have been "among the angels" a hundred times, but with some of the necessary elements of greatness. That opinion has been verified on two fields—well fought—one for five hours, one for two. Just imagine, with 32-70 rifles I shot a front of upwards of 6,000 yards—nearly four miles, against which more than 300 Boers—nearly all Free Staters and Transvaalers armed with Mausers, frequently tried their tricks and treachery, but every time they were thwarted. For example, they sent four men on one occasion far off alone on horseback, thinking we might cut in behind to capture them. Turpin, however, was on the lookout and informed me that about fifty were hidden in a couple of sheep kraals, who would be within easy range in case we tried to ride by. They tried a score of dodges, but the result in each case was loss and licking to them.

The war will soon be over now. We will clear this place in a few weeks more, hope. Indeed, about next Sunday or Saturday I expect the big round-up, and if successful, it will end the heavy part of our work here, so far as fighting goes. Good-bye. Ever faithfully, SAM HUGHES.

HOW FLOWER POTS ARE MADE.

The potter's art or trade has remained unchanged for nearly five thousand years. It is more an art than a trade, for the degree of excellence and the rapidity of production depend more upon skill than upon plodding labor.

For the manufacture of ordinary flower pots, earthen clay, that burns red, is used, while for the more artistic and decorative, the white, or "bone" material, that burns white, is employed for the manufacture of sewer pipe and the like.

The clay is subjected to a refining process by placing it in a cylinder in which a shaft revolves with steel blades attached. Horse power is the motor, and the horse being harnessed to a projection lever set into the shaft. The clay is ejected through a chute at the bottom of the cylinder, in a soft and loose condition, which renders it easily formed into cubes of about one foot.

Having been thus formed it is ready for use, and it is stored in a cellar, or other convenient place, where it can be kept soft and damp.

A wheel-head of solid plank, eighteen inches in diameter, set upon a revolving shaft worked by a treadle similar to those used by lapidaries, is the only machinery employed by the potter. He has before him a mass of wet clay of the necessary consistency, and with one hand he slaps the quantity