

perly paid Battalion Staff, and says in order that a Battalion should be efficient it is indispensable that it should be provided with an Adjutant and Sergeant-Major who should give up their whole time to their military duties, and the rate of pay awarded to them should be such as to offer some inducement to young men of intelligence and social position to qualify themselves for those posts. It is a delusion to imagine that an efficient military force can be kept up without a properly paid permanent staff, and the attempt to do so can only lead to an unprofitable expenditure of public money.

Lt.-Col. Osborne Smith states:—The appointment of Battalion Drill Instructors and Adjutants has been attended with the most happy results, the actual druggery of the detail work is taken off the hands of commanding officers, and instructions in drill and duty is assimilated amongst the scattered companies in a manner that could hardly be established otherwise.

Lt.-Col. Taylor says:—The formation of the Force into battalions renders it absolutely necessary that there should be some paid staff officer to each battalion whose duty it is to see that the General and District orders are fully carried out, to attend to instruction in Battalion drill, the formation of Drill classes, correspondence, returns, target practice, supervision of arms and stores, and generally to perform the duties of Adjutant, Quartermaster, and Paymaster during such time as the Battalion is not out in camp or on service, such an officer is the Battalion Drill Instructor, and each Battalion in this district has now a Battalion Drill Instructor who is also the Adjutant, I find that this officer is also of great use in carrying on the interior management of the battalion, saving much expense to Government in travelling expenses of Brigade Majors, who with their largely increased number of companies, had such a considerable portion of their time occupied in performing their quarterly inspections that other important duties had to be neglected, and now that the Force is supplied with Breach loaders they require the supervision of some staff officer near at hand independent of company officers, as the neglect of a few weeks would cause considerable damage to the new arms.

It is unnecessary, Mr. Editor, to quote further as the whole testimony of the different District Staff Officers in that report is to the same effect showing the benefit derived by the Force from the appointment of these officers, and yet within one year from the publication of such report, to effect a paltry saving of some three or four thousand dollars, these officers are dismissed.

On the withdrawal of the Instructors sent out by the Home Government the majority of these officers now dismissed took the post of Drill Instructors to the scattered companies in their respective counties at a rate of pay and cost to the country of less than half what that duty had previously been done for

this necessitated giving up all civil employment as nearly the whole of their time was taken up in travelling to and fro from the different posts having to stay at each post from three weeks to a month at a time. For this duty they received on an average \$300 a year out, of which they had to defray all travelling charges, postage &c. Of course they were considerably out of pocket by the end of the year but they did this duty cheerfully and (as the reports of the various Inspecting officers show) efficiently in the expectation that they would receive on the consolidation of the Force into Battalions the appointment from which they have just been dismissed, and I do not think that the most economical politician would say that they were overpaid at the salary attached to the appointment \$300 a year and \$20 per annum for travelling expenses for each Company located away from Head quarters. Contrast this with the pay received by the adjutants of the Volunteer Battalions in the old country \$2000 a year and horse allowance with a Drill Sergeant attached to such Company to assist him. I think very few of these gentlemen would have left their civil employments had they been aware of the poor pay that was to be attached to these appointments or have thought that after devoting some six or seven years to render the force efficient they would have been cast aside with as little acknowledgement as one throws away an old glove with the drawback of beginning anew the world minus the years they have so unprofitably lost.

In conclusion, I can only say that I have been an active Volunteer for the last eight years and feel that the Battalion in which I have the honor to command a company, in losing our Adjutant sustains the loss of an officer who has been untiring in his exertions to promote its efficiency, and having been ever since the formation of the Volunteer Force most active and zealous in its cause he has gained the goodwill and esteem not only of the officers and men, but of the whole country.

Your obedient Servant,  
VOLUNTEER.

#### THE USE OF EXPLOSIVE PROJECTILES IN WAR.

There was issued on Thursday a copy of the declaration of the International Military Commission which lately assembled at St. Petersburg in order to examine into the expediency of forbidding the use of certain projectiles in the time of war between civilized nations. That Commission, having by common agreement fixed the technical limits at which the necessities of war ought to yield to the requirements of humanity, declared as follows:—

"Considering that the progress of civilization should have the effect of alleviating as much as possible the calamities of war; that the only legitimate object which States should endeavour to accomplish during war is to weaken the military forces of the enemy; that for this purpose it is sufficient to disable the greatest possible number of men; that this object would be exceeded by the

employment of arms which uselessly aggravate the sufferings of disabled men, or render their death inevitable; that the employment of such arms would, therefore, be contrary to the laws of humanity; the contracting parties engage mutually to renounce, in case of war among themselves, the employment by their military or naval troops of any projectile of a weight below 400 grammes, which is either explosive or charged with fulminating or inflammable substances. They will invite all the States which have not taken part in the deliberations of the International Military Commission assembled at St. Petersburg, by sending delegates thereto, to accede to the present engagement. This engagement is obligatory only upon the contracting or acceding parties thereto in case of war between two or more of themselves; it is not applicable with regard to non-contracting parties, or parties who shall not have acceded to it. It will also cease to be obligatory from the moment when, in a war between contracting or acceding parties, a non-contracting party or a non-acceding party shall join one of the belligerents. The contracting or acceding parties reserve to themselves to come hereafter to an understanding whenever a precise proposition shall be drawn up in view of future improvements which science may effect in the armament of troops, in order to maintain the principles which they have established, and to conciliate the necessities of war with the laws of humanity."

This was signed at St. Petersburg, on the 11th of December, 1868, by the representatives of Great Britain, Austria and Hungary, Bavaria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Persia, Portugal, Prussia and North German Confederation, Russia, Sweden and Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, and Wurtemberg.

The following from the *Nor' Wester* will be valuable to those intending to emigrate to the Red River country:—

"We find upon due enquiry that justice to the intending emigrant counsels us to advise such of them as intend to come to this country by way of Lake Superior City as to the best route to take, inasmuch as the back route from here to Crow Wing is only a natural prairie road with no bridges over the streams. We would advise them to come from Superior City to Sunrise City, and thence by the best available route to St. Cloud or Alexandria. When at either of the latter places they can take the regularly travelled road to this place."

"Emigrants coming in companies with their families and stock, will not encounter much difficulty on either route we now mention, and it will be much the cheapest."

The following table shows the distance from point to point on the route named:—

From Superior City to Crow Wing miles	100
Crow Wing to Otter-tail Lake.....	80
Otter-tail Lake to Otter-tail River.....	24
Otter-tail river to 2d crossing Otter-tail River.....	4
Otter-tail River to Detroit Lake.....	5
Detroit Lake to Buffalo River.....	35
Buffalo River to Rice River.....	30
Rice River to Sand Hill River.....	33
Sand Hill River to Red Lake River.....	28
Red Lake River to Smoke Hill River.....	27
Smoke Hill River to Middle River.....	7
Middle River to Pine River.....	4
Pine River to Long Point.....	18
Long Point to 1st of 2 Rivers.....	8
1st of 2 Rivers to 2d of 2 Rivers.....	4
2d of Rivers to Pembina.....	12
Pembina to Fort Garry.....	67