

forth, and we know how readily that was responded to. (Applause.) From all parts of the Dominion offers of troops poured in, and the gentleman at the head of the Militia Department, who was charged more particularly with the selection of the troops, had a difficulty in discriminating amongst those who wished to be sent forward. (Hear, hear.) It speaks well for this country that we have such a citizen soldiery—a body of men who, although unused to military life further than reviews on grand occasions, and meetings for their own amusement and the gratification of their countrymen, have been found, when the occasion called for it, to be not merely holiday soldiers, but that in active service they had all the grit and ability of regular, disciplined troops, able to endure hardships of no ordinary character and, moreover, that they had, what is often lacking in mere professional soldiers, an ardent devotion to their country and a determination to distinguish themselves in arms. (Hear, hear.) The hon. gentleman who introduced these resolutions to our notice has gone so fully into the subject that I do not intend to follow him. I may however draw attention to one or two points that struck me as worthy of note. The first and most important incident that had a bearing on the whole question was the fact that when the engagement took place at Fish Creek we found Major-General Middleton was not willing to send his volunteer troops to a point of danger that he would not himself dare brave. At Fish Creek he led his men and was found, one part of the day, at so forward a point that he proved a mark for skilled riflemen who were concealed in the pits. I need only call the attention of the House to the fact that his two aides were disabled and he, himself, received a shot through his cap. One of his aides had his horse shot under him first, and then, not willing to retire, and getting another horse, he was disabled by a bullet which drove him from the field and the other aide, Lieut. Doucet, was also compelled to go to the rear in consequence of a wound. The effect of the Major-General showing himself in the front and being willing to expose himself in the manner he did so pluckily, had, I think a sympathetic influence on the troops under his command. It at once established a

tie between the men and their general, and that was evidenced throughout the whole campaign. He found them willing soldiers, determined to go where he commanded them. There was no looking back—the difficulty was to keep them from rushing to the front and madly exposing themselves. It became necessary to adopt the style of warfare pursued on the other side. It was very much a battle of duellists—men selected on each side for their skill as marksmen, and the effort was to hit your man and keep yourself under cover. Unlike the battles of the past it was a combat largely of skilled marksmen, and therefore we know that the smallest exposure led to men being struck, and Major-General Middleton had difficulty preventing his men being killed. I think it is a subject matter worthy of notice here that knowing the class of men he had under his command he was sparing of them. (Cheers.) He did not desire to sacrifice them. He did not send them to the front in large bodies, by which means, possibly, the battle might soon have been ended, but which would have resulted in the loss of life being very much larger. The whole campaign has been most skilfully managed. I am glad the Minister of Justice mentioned Colonel Otter's march through the Cree reserve, because at the time the propriety of it was somewhat criticised. Very many thought he went without orders—that it was unwise for him to do so with the comparatively small force, and knowing that Poundmaker had a very large band of warriors, I think four times at least the number of Colonel Otter's force. The march from Battleford was certainly worthy of notice, particularly as the men marched through the greater part of the night and commenced the fight before the dawn of day, before they had received any refreshment. They went into the fight without waiting to rest, and were only compelled to withdraw because their two guns gave out, the woodwork of the carriages being in bad order. The commander very properly, I think, retired. At the moment, it was thought he had accomplished nothing, but those who passed that judgment were rather premature, because the shock that Poundmaker got in that engagement stopped his joining Big Bear and Riel at points further