

## FROM MONTREAL.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

It would be a great satisfaction to the people of Canada to have laid before them all private and confidential communications addressed to the Government on the subject of the late Fenian scare, and till some explanations are vouchsafed public opinion will be that the official wisacres at the head of the military department have been most egregiously sold and bamboozled. The state of affairs must certainly have been critical when men were ordered from their beds at midnight, others interrupted in divine service on the Lord's day, and although no events or facts have since publicly transpired to show that any attempt of the invasion of Canada by the Fenians was contemplated, still the government must have been informed on points not given to the public, and of a very grave nature too, to necessitate the extraordinary exertions, immense military display, and heavy expenditure resorted to; still the country does not relish the air of mystery thrown around all this fuss and naturally expects some explanations for preparations so at variance with the popular idea of the worthlessness and insignificance of these vagabonds. We were led to believe that the Fenians had dwindled down to a very small proportion and that these few were fighting among themselves, that there was little organization and less union, when lo! nearly the whole military strength of the Dominion is called out at dead of night to repel a probable invasion.

Then the whole affair collapses as suddenly as it originated; an order goes forth, every man is called home, their services dispensed with at once, and battalions were re-called from the frontier who had not been there over twelve hours; a piece of folly anyone would admit to have sent them out at all entailing a heavy cost for transit. The 1st Provisional Battalion under Major La Branche left Montreal for Lacolle, Thursday afternoon, with baggage and ten thousand rounds of ammunition, on Friday morning it was re-called and at once disbanded. In view of the Battalion proceeding to Lacolle comfortable billets were procured there, many of the people going to considerable expense purchasing bed and bedding for the comfort of the troops who are re-called after one day's sojourn, and the people are munificently recompensed for all the trouble and expense they had been put to, at forty cents per man. Why have sent the battalion out to be recalled next day and disbanded. Expense of transport and unnecessary trouble might have been avoided by a little forethought and judgement.

The recent calling out of the Volunteers demonstrated the wants and deficiencies of the force, showed its strength, its weak points, and its condition. Every one acknowledges the state of the city companies, if we except the Garrison Artillery, was most pitiable, corps having dwindled down to

more skeletons of their former selves, and many of these imperfectly clad, numbers being without knapsacks, shoulder straps, &c. People, however, responded to the Government call in a patriotic manner, recruiting very soon augmented the ranks, things began to wear a look of former times and the review and inspection of last Wednesday reflected credit on the Volunteers of Montreal so rapidly did the people volunteer to aid the country in what was supposed to be its hour of peril. Knapsacks and blankets are much needed by many companies, many having been sent to the front without them; they should be provided with them without delay. The officers of the force are in a much better state of efficiency than formerly, owing to the training many have had in the Military School, still there was some awkwardness displayed, attributed to nervousness, which, however, soon wore off and many handled their companies with great tact. The matter of "pay" has always been a source of grumbling among the Volunteers, but affairs have been well managed in that respect this time and the men have generally been paid promptly. I cannot, however, see the claim of the city corps for billet money, who drilled only from five o'clock in the afternoon, and were not taken from their homes like the country corps who drilled some eight hours regularly, and were as far as pay was concerned placed on a par with their town cousins.

Many of the country officers went to the front with walking canes, never having been the possessors of swords, and in the matter of uniforms many were not in regulation trim. Men were sent to the most exposed part of the frontier who had never fired a rifle in their lives, neither were there any provision in the shape of blank ammunition supplied to give them the practice requisite, so if they had been surprised they would have had to trust to luck, and then experience might be dearly bought.

Before dismissing the men of the 1st Provisional Battalion Major La Branche, under whose command they had been, treated them to a neat little speech, which I regret I cannot give in full. He began with, "La guerre est finie," and he then went on to express the regret he felt at leaving them, stating that he never had the honor of commanding a more orderly and well behaved battalion. The Major's speech was intermixed with many patriotic allusions, after which the men gave three hearty cheers for the Queen and another three for the Major.

Some misunderstanding has occurred between Col. Grant and Col. Ferrier owing to the latter assuming command of the Volunteer force at the review on Wednesday. Col. Grant, as senior officer, feels himself aggrieved at being so summarily superseded and I hear has sent in his resignation but which, I hope, will not be accepted, as Col. Grant is a valuable officer, and it would be a pity if a trivial matter like this should

cause the force to lose the services of one who is a credit to it.

The Brigade Majors have had their hands full lately, and notwithstanding the constant demand made upon their time and patience have performed their duties very creditably with promptness and efficiency. Colonels Smith, Fletcher, de Bellefeuille, Lovblace, and others at the front have been most indefatigable in organising and drilling their several commands, and Col. Harwood, D'Orsonnes, Anson, Bacon, at home, have not been idle.

Capt. Muir and his troop of cavalry were the first called out and are, I believe, about the only Volunteers yet on duty.

Colonel de Bellefeuille, commandant of the 2nd Provisional Battalion at St. John's, was the recipient of a very gratifying testimonial from the men and officers of his battalion previous to disbanding, and which he rightly earned, having spared neither trouble nor patience in perfecting his men in their several duties.

Monday last witnessed the marriage at the French Parish Church here of L. Gustave d'Odette d'Orsonnes, Lieut.-Col. and Brigade Major to Marie, Louise Desbarats. The gallant Colonel comes of a truly noble stock and he is a worthy representative of it, his urbanity and courtesy in public as well as private life have gained him many friends and he is perhaps as popular an officer as we have on the staff. The youthful bridegroom had for his best man Lt.-Col. Charles de Bellefeuille, Brigade Major, the other grooms were Chevalier La Rocque, Captain Theod. Doucet and Lieut. Alphonse F. d'Eshambault; the bridesmaids were Melle. Desbarats, Melle. C. de Martigny, Melle. H. Cartier, daughter of Sir George Cartier, and Miss Berthelot, daughter of Judge Berthelot. The grooms were all attention, the ladies charming, and the service impressive. The youthful couple went through the trying ordeal with dignity and grace, and the ladies especially were enthusiastic in their praises of the beauty of the bride and the handsome appearance of the groom. Lady Cartier, Judge and Mrs. Berthelot and many other distinguished persons witnessed the ceremony which was performed by Rev. Cham. Loblain assisted by the Curate of Notre Dame. The church was crammed almost to suffocation by the numerous friends of the gallant Colonel and his pretty bride, and it is some time since such an interesting event took place there. I merely echo the sentiments of all who know Col. d'Orsonnes in wishing him and his bride God speed and a happy and prosperous life.

What has the recent call to arms cost the Government?  
B.

## HUNTINGDON FRONTIER.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

All quiet in this part of the world and not even the ghost of a Fenian to be seen. A Brigade route march, under the command of Col. Fletcher and attended by his Brigade