

Shoeburyness, as a spot where a descent might be made without any trouble.

Captain Colomb was inclined to place greater faith in gun-boats than in such a number of batteries, and cited the authority of Sir John Burgoyne in support of the opinion that the erection of coast batteries fostered a feeling of careless security in the public—as, once erected, it was taken for granted the batteries were a security in themselves and no thought was given their manning or armament.

Two or three other speakers made a few remarks, and the proceedings terminated with the customary votes of thanks.

RECONNAISSANCE OF THE NORTH WEST PROVINCES AND INDIAN TERRITORIES OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

(Concluded from Page 269.)

If it be in harmony, therefore, with the policy of the Government to do so, I would recommend the establishment of Military Posts at the following places, strength as below:

1. At Portage de la Prairie	70	Mt Riflemen
2. " Fort Ellice	50	"
3. " Carlton	50	"
4. " Pitt	50	"
5. " Victoria	50	"
6. " Edmonton	100	"
7. " Porcupine Hill	150	"
Total	500	

With a proportion of officers and non-commissioned officers.

If no permanent Custom House and Military Post is established at the Porcupine Hills, then the strength of the force at Edmonton should be 250, of which 150 men should be encamped during the summer months at the Porcupine Hills, or at the junction of the Bow and Belly Rivers, returning to Edmonton for the winter; but the establishment of a Custom House and Military Post at Porcupine Hills, is of far more importance and would have a much better general effect towards securing the peaceful settlement of the country than at any other place named. During the summer months a detachment of 50 men from this post might with advantage be employed in improving the communication across the mountains with the Kootenay District of British Columbia.

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, intrenching 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 are not confined to the medical charge of the military only, but extended to all the Indians in the vicinity.

Last 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 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 out of 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 usually carry the mail.

At the places indicated for military posts no great difficulty would be experienced, or expenses 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 the probable expense that would be incurred for the establishment and maintenance of the militia force proposed, would be about \$300,000 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 telegraph 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 their 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 finds it convenient to do so. It is not necessary at present to appoint any Brigade Majors.

The formation of two companies of riflemen (volunteer militia) in Victoria, and one at Nanaimo, is recommended, also the formation of one company of riflemen at New Westminster, another at Burrard's Inlet, on the mainland, and that the New Westminster Battery of Garrison Artillery be reorganized.

The total white population of the province is only as yet about 12,000. There are about 4,000 half-breeds and 45,000 Indians—the latter mainly dwelling along the coast. The Indians dwelling in the interior of British Columbia are not numerous, the policy of treating them much in the same manner as if they were settlers, appears to have succeeded admirably.

The following amount of military stores have recently been despatched by order of the Dominion Government, from England direct by sea to Victoria, for the equipment of the Militia of the Province:—

1,000 Snider Enfield Rifles.
1,000 Sets of Accoutrements.
1,000 Rifle Uniforms.
1,000 Great Coats.
30,000 Rounds of Ammunition.
60 Tents.

20 Targets complete, with flags.
100 Camp Kettles.
1,000 Knapsacks complete, with Mess-Tins and straps.

It is very desirable with a view to ultimate economy as well as present efficiency that some building be acquired in Victoria to serve as an Armoury and Storeroom, and that a storekeeper be appointed to the charge of this public property without delay.

I have the honor to be sir,
Your most obedient servant,

P. ROBERTSON ROSS, Colonel,
Commanding the Militia of Canada.
and Adjutant General of Militia.

Head Quarters,
Ottawa, 17th March, 1873.

The *Jahrbuch für die Deutsche Armee und Marine*, in a notice of the Swiss federal army, furnishes the annexed particulars: The new Swiss bronze breech-loading field gun is 8.4 centimetres in calibre, and weighs 433 kilogrammes; the ordinary changes is 840 grammes. The weights of the projectiles are as follows: Shells, 5.53 kilogrammes; shrapnel, 15.61 kilogrammes; canister 5.43 kilogrammes. The gun is mounted on an iron field carriage, provided with side boxes. The limbers is also of iron. Both are fitted for practice with wooden wheels. With forty rounds in the limber boxes, and a team of six horses, the total draught of the piece is 1,600 kilogrammes or with a detachment of five men mounted on the gun and limber boxes, 2,000 kilogrammes. The range and accuracy of fire are very favorably reported of. The terminal velocity of the shell was found to be 356 metres, at a range of 500 metres with an elevation of 0 deg. 45 min; 239 metres at a range of 1,500 metres with an elevation of 7 deg.; and 195 metres at a range of 3,500 metres, with an elevation of 11 deg. 30 min. The fuses used with the shells are a modification of the Prussian fuse. The shrapnels are an improvement on the Boxer shrapnel. They are of wrought iron, with cast iron ends the bursting charge being contained in a central brass tube. The charge consists of 130 bullets of sixteen millimetres, twenty of them being of zinc, weighing twelve grammes each, and the remaining 110 of hardened lead weighing 22 grammes each. This compound consists of four parts by weight of lead and one of antimony. Shrapnels of like pattern are used with the steel 10 centimetre and the bronze 12 centimetre guns for artillery of position. The canister shot consists of tin cases fitted with wooden bottoms, and filled with hardened leaden bullets of 21.5 millimetres diameter, weighing 75 grammes.

The Austrian war authorities have discarded the white tunic as a working dress for the army, and have adopted in its stead a blue blouse; under the blouse a waistcoat with sleeves is worn.