

and as the act did not cover their case a new law was passed. This again was found not to be sufficient. He hoped if any further change were made it would cover this case, as their scouting duties had been arduous and dangerous.

Mr. Weldon referred to the volunteers of St. Andrews and St. John, who had been called out. He hoped their claims to recompense for the great expense and privation they were put to in preparing to do their duty would be considered.

On the 20th Col. Amyot asked the ministry whether the government intended contributing (1) by a money contribution (2) by a demonstration or military review, towards the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Her Majesty's reign, in the capitals of the several provinces. Sir Adolphe replied that the government had no such intention, but that any corps that so desired would be authorized to participate in any demonstration which might be organized.

On the 25th Mr. Thompson introduced a bill respecting public stores, the object of which is to enable the government to mark all public property, and to punish anyone for having it unlawfully in his possession.

Mr. Shakespeare asked the ministry whether a copy of the report of Col. O'Brien, R.E., on the fortifications of British Columbia had been received and would be laid on the table, to which the Minister of Militia replied that no report had been received yet.

On the 27th the Governor-General transmitted a copy of a despatch showing the arrangements adopted by the British admiralty in order to meet the views of the colonial governments in relation to the Imperial pay and pension and to the promotion in the Imperial service of Imperial naval and military officers employed by colonial governments.

Records of Our Militia Corps.—IV.

The Quebec Volunteer Cavalry.

(Continued from page 747.)

BATTLE OF QUEBEC, THURSDAY, 13TH SEPT., 1759.

“BEFORE daybreak on this ever memorable day the English troops made a descent upon the north shore a little to the eastward of Sillery, and the rapidity of the current fortunately carried the boats with the light troops still farther down towards Cape Diamond. By daylight the whole of Gen. Wolfe's army was formed on the top of the hill, and drove in the chain of sentries posted along the summit of the heights, who had continued to fire upon the landing parties up to the last moment, picking off some officers and men. At six o'clock the march towards the town was halted by the appearance of the French on the heights between them and the city, and orders given to form up in battle array, the fight commencing with artillery fire from the French, also a musketry fire from their Indians and marksmen.”

Knox says: “About eight o'clock we had two pieces of short brass six-pounders playing on the enemy, which threw them into some confusion, and obliged them to alter their disposition, and Montcalm formed them into three large columns; about nine the two armies moved a little nearer each other. The light cavalry made a faint attempt upon our parties at the battery of Sillery but were soon beat off, and Monsieur de Bougainville with his troops from Cap Rouge, consisting of five companies of grenadiers, cavalry, Canadian volunteers, savages and militia, 2,060 in all, came down to attack the flank of our second line, hoping to penetrate there; but by a masterly disposition of Brigadier Townshend they were forced to desist, and the third battalion of Royal Americans was then detached to the first ground we had formed on, after we had gained the heights to preserve the communication with the beach and the boats.”

From the diary of a French officer, published at page 98, speaking of the haste to engage the English, and the quality of the troops which formed the reserve, we take the following: “Our generals thinking we could do the business without the aid of M. de Bougainville, who was advancing from Cap Rouge with the flower of the army, ordered us to march up and engage the enemy,” and from an old order published at page 116: “Dispositions generales pour s'opposer à la descente des Anglais depuis la rivière St. Charles dans le cas que l'on fût forcée dans la descente pour defendre cette rivière; et ordre de bataille pour combattre et camper pendant toute la campagne.

ORDRE DE BATAILLE.

“La réserve sera composée de la cavalerie (trois cents cinquante) les troupes légères, (la colonie, volontaires, etc., un mille quatre cents) et de sauvages (quatre cents cinquante), le total deux milles deux cents; aux ordres de Monsieur de B. Hibert,” and we learn with reference to this order from Knox at page 115, when he says: “The late town major of Quebec favored me with the following table of regulations which were the result of a council of war held last May upon the arrival of a squadron

from France with artillery stores and provisions.” So that the reliability of the perfect correctness of this order as given above, is sufficiently vouched for.

Then again, Gen. Townshend in a letter to His Majesty's secretary of state, dated Camp before Quebec, 20th September, 1759, describes the conclusion of the battle thus: “This was the situation of things as I was told in the action that I commanded. I immediately repaired to the centre and finding the pursuit had put part of the troops in disorder, I formed them as soon as possible. Scarce was this effected when M. de Bougainville with his corps from Cap Rouge of 2,000 men, appeared in our rear. I advanced two pieces of artillery and two battalions towards him, upon which he retired. You will not, I flatter myself, blame me for not quitting such advantageous ground, and risking the fate of so decisive a day, by seeking a fresh enemy posted perhaps in the very kind of ground he could wish for, viz: woods and swamps.

After the battle the greater portion of the French retreated to Pointe aux Trembles, covered by the cavalry, who, however, still continued as active as ever, for on the 23rd October, at page 177, we are told: “Our weather changed again to rain last night and continued this day without intermission. The French cavalry came this morning into our neighborhood and carried off some prisoners and a considerable number of black cattle belonging to the general hospital. The governor has resolved to make severe reprisals for these outrages, and to oblige the enemy to keep at a greater distance from our environs.” Again next day a skulking party of the enemy, supported by some light cavalry, attempted to force our post in the great redoubt on the north side of the Charles river, but were soon repulsed by the detachment there without any loss; one horse and rider were killed on the part of the assailants; when the latter fell his companions threw him across another horse and carried him off. It is conjectured they had several men wounded, and on the 12th November we find several of these ubiquitous Uhlans across the river St. Lawrence, for at page 204 Knox says: “As an unfortunate Canadian was taking a boat a few days ago at Point Levi to come over here with a quantity of fresh provisions, he was set upon by ten of the light cavalry, who, not content with plundering him, beat and abused him most inhumanly, by wounding him with their sabres and scarifying his wrists and arms with their knives; at leaving him they said: ‘Now go and tell your fine English governor how we have treated you, and we hope soon to serve him and his valiant troops in the same manner.’” The severe winter which followed, and which proved so trying to the English garrison of Quebec does not seem to have had much effect upon the Quebec squadron of cavalry, for in the spring we find them leading the advance guard of the French army to the attack upon Quebec, and the day before the battle of Sillery, or St. Foy as some call it, we find the following recorded 27th April, 1760:

“Moderate weather, with a thick and cold misting rain. The light troops exchanged several shots with the enemy, but they kept at so great a distance that it availed nothing; the Governor formed the line of battle on an advantageous piece of ground beyond St. Foy, and endeavored to invite them to action; in which they seemed as if inclined to indulge him, and afterwards retired to the woods behind them, hoping by various stratagems to decoy our troops to follow them. Their cavalry and savages made frequent ostentatious displays by repeated counter-marches within the skirts of their cover, sometimes in large and at other times in small divisions to appear more numerous, yet they would not advance, though within the distance of our artillery which galled them immensely, for they were frequently thrown into confusion and seen to drag off many killed and disabled men. At length the Governor perceiving that they were only trifling and protracting time gave orders for the demolition of our post at the church and after the performance thereof, marched back his forces to the garrison, without any other accident in the course of the day than having two men slightly wounded. The enemy affected to pursue in their march, but our field pieces obliged them to keep aloof; and the flanks of the line were so well covered by the light troops that they could not make the least impression, so that they contented themselves with firing and shouting at a great distance.”

Next day was the great battle of St. Foy, resulting in a decided victory for the French, who, however, lost upwards of 1,500 men; the English troops suffered to the extent of 1,100 of all ranks, killed, wounded, and prisoners. Late at night the Governor issued the following orders:

ORDERS.

“The 28th April has been unfortunate to the British arms, but affairs are not so desparate as to be irretrievable; and the General often experienced the bravery of the troops he now commands, and is very sensible they will endeavor to regain what they have lost; the fleet may be hourly expected, reinforcements are at hand; and shall we lose, in one moment, the fruits of so much blood and treasure? Both officers and men are exhorted patiently to undergo the fatigues they must suffer, and to expose themselves cheerfully to some dangers, a duty they owe to their King, their country and themselves.”