

a car filled with supplies arrived from Ottawa or Montreal addressed to me; the railway officials refused to let me have it without an order from Col. Jackson, Chief Supply Officer. On application to Colonel Jackson he refused, saying he had no authority or orders to recognize me. I appealed to him, in view of the urgency, and offered to give my own bonds, but in vain, until I wrote him, disclaiming any further responsibility and transferring it to him. When the order was issued, I had no fault to find with Col. Jackson, who treated me always very courteously, but attributed it to his not having received any orders. I may be permitted to state here the obligations I was under to the Superintendent, Mr. Egan, the Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Shields, and all the officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway, for many acts of kindness, and I can bear cheerful testimony to their zeal in forwarding all the supplies with promptitude and care, always good-natured and agreeable. I never applied to them in vain, and they could not have done better if for themselves.

I frequently asked for letters of credit and authority to purchase goods, but did not receive a satisfactory reply. I could not, therefore, pay the hotel and other expenses of dressers and surgeons which I was asked to do. They were constantly arriving and going forward, and were much dissatisfied when I could not pay their bills.

On the 1st of May I received orders to proceed to Swift Current, and lost no time in packing up our stores, filled two cars and part of another. On my arrival at Swift Current, I found the hospital car used as a dormitory by dressers, orderlies and surgeons, while the caboose was used as a dwelling by the Commandant General Laurie, and the Surgeon in command of the Hospital Corps. On further examination, I found that an old dirty, dilapidated car, deeply imbedded in the mud, was used as a hospital. It was close to the Railway latrines, the odors from which it could not escape; there were two or three sick soldiers in this, and they were attended by 19 (nineteen) dressers and 4 surgeons. I immediately determined to make a change, and had two marquees or hospital tents and four small ones pitched on an elevated situation, and had the patients removed. I wrote out a set of rules and regulations, a copy of which I submitted to you for approval; tin stoves were put up as the nights were very cold; I had more than once to procure wood, and prepare it, and gave my own blankets to a patient, which were never returned. I mention these things to show the difficulties I had to contend with. In addition I had to look after the stores, and ship as quickly as possible the orders which came from different sources. Our great difficulty here and all through the Rebellion was the want of means of transport; had I not taken great pains to secure it, very little would have been sent. I also ordered the hospital car to be cleaned, and ready to start at any moment during our stay. One man died, named Marais, he had had heart disease, and was left in Hospital by the 9th when they left. No post mortem was held, the body was embalmed and sent to Calgary.

From Swift Current detachments were being constantly sent to different points, and each of these requiring a surgeon, dressers and outfit, the number of surgeons and dressers were soon diminished, and having fewer in number at the Hospital it was better attended, and soon became as perfect as a hospital situated where it was could possibly be. When I was beginning to feel proud of the Hospital, we were suddenly ordered to Moosejaw. On the twentieth (20th) of May, I immediately ordered the car for the sick to be put in readiness. We transferred the patients to it without any difficulty; they were very comfortable, very well attended to, and were removed without a single complaint.

General Laurie had previously selected buildings (a number of which were vacant) for hospital offices and stores; the store for me was too small, and I had to engage another to protect the goods. A Base Hospital was established here. All being comfortably settled, and Dr. Roddick being in charge, I, as you had ordered a short time previously, undertook to make a tour of inspection as far as Calgary, visiting Medicine Hat, in charge of Dr. Tobin of the 9th, Crowfoot in charge of Dr. Cloutier, and Calgary in charge of Dr. Tracy—the latter, the largest, I recom-