

his cap ; all showing that he had put himself perhaps unduly forward, and for the purpose, as I have no doubt, of stimulating his men by his own example. The fact that our troops behaved so well in the North-West and evinced such steady courage in the presence of the enemy, I dare say we owe much to General Middleton. From all that we know, it is impossible that troops could have been led with more judgment, or indeed with more gallantry. That they were able to take the field so quickly and so well equipped in every way, that their movements were so prompt and so complete, we owe chiefly, I believe, to the vigorous administration of my hon. friend, the Minister of Militia, whose zeal and thoroughness and assiduity in the discharge of the novel and arduous duties which the circumstances threw upon him deserve the highest praise. He is not included in this vote of thanks, because it would not be usual to do so, but the country well knows, I think, that it is greatly his debtor in the matters to which I have referred, and I have every reason to believe that he was effectively seconded by Colonel Powell, Deputy Adjutant General, and Colonel Panet, Deputy Minister of Militia, and by the Director General of Stores, Lt.-Colonel Macpherson. The precautions which were taken to keep up the stores and ammunition by despatching large quantities from Ottawa through the United States the moment the troops left this part of the country showed great foresight and good management, whilst the hospital arrangements were exceedingly complete and effective. That service was placed under the command of Surgeon-General Bergin, and any one who has studied the details will arrive at the conclusion that he discharged it with foresight, and thoroughness, and sound judgment. The courage of our men was undoubted, and the expectations of the country in this respect have been amply realized ; but I don't think that anyone expected from the young recruits who formed the forces the powers of endurance which they displayed. They commenced the campaign at the worst possible period of the year as regards exposure to wet and the most trying kind of cold. In eight days they accomplished the distance from Ottawa to Winnipeg,

including marches amounting to between 80 and 90 miles over very rough country, in snow and slush, one may safely say without roads. When they left Winnipeg early in April for the field the first detachment marched from Qu'Appelle were engaged in the skirmish at Fish Creek, where they were two days or three ; they defeated the enemy with considerable loss both there and in the affair at Batoche on the 8th of May, and arrived at Prince Albert in ten days, a distance of 196 miles, which was traversed by them, including the engagements I have spoken of, at the rate of 19 miles a day. The march of the column of Colonel Otter, from Battleford to Poundmaker's Reserve, a distance of 35 miles, and the return over the same distance after having defeated the enemy in a skirmish of five or six hours' duration, was a wonderful achievement for young troops. I am confident that the marching powers of the force would have received the praise of the most experienced officers. The gallantry and spirit with which they made the rush at Batoche on an enemy of unknown strength entrenched in a strong position, was a strong evidence of the high courage of the men and of the spirit with which they were led by Cols. Williams and Grasett. Since that engagement the country has to mourn the loss of one of those who took the foremost part in it—Col. Williams, of the Midland Battalion—a soldier of high courage and gallantry, whose name will live as one of the bravest and best soldiers who fought under General Middleton in the campaign. The Major-General, upon whom nothing seems to have been thrown away, relates in his dispatch a little anecdote which I will repeat to the House. It is in the account of the battle of Fish Creek. He says : " I cannot conclude " without mentioning a little bugler of the " 90th Regiment, who made himself particularly useful in carrying ammunition " to the right flank when the fire was very " hot. This he did with peculiar non- " chalance, walking calmly about, crying " 'now boys, who's for cartridges ? ' " The little fellow's name is William Buchanan, and it will also have a place in the history of this campaign. The hospital service, under the charge of Dr. Roddick, Deputy Surgeon-General, and our colleague, Dr. Sullivan, as pur-