
THE CANADIAN
MILITIA GAZETTE.

A Weekly Journal devoted to the interests of the Active Force of the Dominion.

VOLUME I.

1885-1886.



OTTAWA, CANADA.

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THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

First Year.
VOL. I, No. 1.

Ottawa, Tuesday, 12th May, 1885.

\$1.50 per Annum in advance
Single Copies Five Cents.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The MILITIA GAZETTE aims at being the recognized medium of instruction and information for Canadian militiamen and rifle shots. Communications on the subjects to which its pages are devoted are respectfully invited. Anonymous communications will not be regarded. No name will be published, except with the writer's consent. The editors will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.

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May begin at any time, and are payable strictly in advance. Terms for Canada, the United States, or Great Britain, \$1.50; eight months, \$1.00; to clubs of four annual subscribers, four copies for \$5.00; postage in each case prepaid. Single copies can be obtained from the newsdealers at 6 cents each.

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REMITTANCES

Should be made by Registered Letter, Post Office Order or Draft. For Great Britain, each dollar may be taken as equivalent to 4s., and cents as half-pence. All communications must be addressed to

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE,
Box 316, OTTAWA, Canada.

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COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

Details of Lt.-Col. Otter's raid on Poundmaker's reserve come in but slowly, yet enough have been received to show that he encountered the same difficulties that beset General Middleton at Fish Creek, and that any advantage our troops may gain over the insurgents will be dearly bought in consequence of the guerrilla warfare of the insurgent forces and the advantage on their side of good cover from the attack. There is apparently ample evidence that all engaged in the skirmish behaved in the coolest and bravest manner, and that the eight poor fellows who yielded up their lives in the struggle for the maintenance of legitimate government died as heroes, and have earned the gratitude of their countrymen. There is one thing to be feared, namely: that Col. Otter's return to Battleford, though perfectly justified from the point of view of civilized warfare, may be misinterpreted by the Indians into a decisive defeat, and may encourage them to more stubborn resistance. It is therefore to be hoped that this step will be followed up by a more decisive and speedy punishment.

"Fellow-feeling makes us wondrous kind," so the American press, bearing in mind the experience of their own troops in their Indian wars, is not only able to discuss our North-western insurrection intelligently, but is making every allowance for the difficulties our troops have had to encounter, and is inclined to give them every credit for the steadiness they have shown. One leading New York daily refers to

the Custer massacre as evidence of the manner in which even regular cavalry accustomed to Indian warfare can be worsted by inferior forces, and congratulates General Middleton on the result of his first engagement, in not having suffered total demoralization with the raw troops under his command. It points out that under the most favorable circumstances the subjection of rebels existing and fighting in so irregular a way must be a matter of time and patience rather than of high military skill, as well as a matter necessarily involving the loss of many valuable lives.

This is in pleasing contrast to much that we read in the Canadian press and hear in conversation around us, where we find men, who have seen nothing of warfare and know little of the Western country, quite ready to criticize and condemn what they cannot properly understand. Within the last week a letter has appeared in a daily paper of a Canadian city, signed by a militia officer, which is a direct infringement of the Queen's Regulations, and which brings up points that must have been duly considered by the writer's superior officers weeks ago, and decided to their satisfaction, if not to his. We think that the best help we can give to the active force is to repose implicit confidence in their commanders, and to assure ourselves and our friends that although we may not, at this distance, understand the motive for every action, nothing has been done without due consideration and without sufficient and satisfactory reason.

Whatever may be said about the previous equipments of the militia force, or the completeness and sufficiency of militia stores, the promptitude and energy displayed by all the head-quarters staff, from the Minister of Militia down, in supplying the corps ordered to the front, are beyond praise. The 27th of March, when news of the Duck Lake fight was received, found the department unprepared for an emergency, but within less than a month over four thousand men, all that were considered necessary, were called into active service, and were on the ground fully equipped, though these equipments had, in most cases, to be bought and served out after the corps was called out. Full supplies of arms, ammunition, clothing and other equipment have been forwarded to Winnipeg, two Gatling batteries, an efficient transport service, ambulance and hospital corps have been organized and the campaign systematized, and last but not least ten thousand Martini-Henry rifles have been imported.

This large supply of Martini-Henry rifles means probably a rapid change in the basis of rifle practice in Canada. Heretofore our arm has been the Snider, and our practice and competitions have been almost wholly confined to that weapon, but it is very evident that sufficient of the superior gun to arm one-quarter of our entire force will not be allowed to lie idle, and we may safely predict that Martini-Henry practice and matches will soon assume great importance. This prospect is the more satisfactory in view of the inferior position to which Snider

matches have been relegated by the English N.R.A., and the desirability that men sent to represent Canada at Wimbledon should use, not an arm taken up merely to qualify for that meeting, but the one which they are accustomed to compete with at home.

It is true that there have been Martini matches at the Dominion and some of the Provincial meetings, but these can scarcely be considered satisfactory, in view of the fact that competitors were not obliged to use their own rifles, and that while some took from the association's supply rifles they had never seen before, others passed on their previously sighted rifles to their friends, and we believe we are safe in asserting that in the D.R.A. extra series Martini last year, most of the important prizes were won with rifles handed to the winners by friends just rising from the butts.

Late English volunteer journals are filled with accounts of the Easter Monday reviews, which were conducted on the same principles as in former years, though the details of course were different. There were separate manœuvres at Brighton, Dover and Aldershot, the former being, however, much the most extensive and important. Most of the troops began moving by rail towards Brighton on the morning of Good Friday, and marched during the afternoon. On Saturday the invading forces were met, and a general engagement ensued. On Easter Monday there was another sham battle and a review by the Duke of Cambridge, after which the troops returned to their several headquarters by train. Complaint is made of the inadequacy of the artillery and cavalry branches of the service, as well as of the absence of a good mounted signal corps, and opinions naturally differ as to the manner in which the strategic work was carried out, but enough is said to show that, like our own militia, the volunteers are not perfect, and that there is yet much room for improvement, even in the highest ranks of the officers.

As we go to press information reaches us of a decisive engagement having been fought at Batouches on Saturday the 9th inst., by the forces under the personal command of Major General Middleton. The news, which up to the time of writing, is somewhat scant, points to a sharp victory for the militia force, and it would appear that they now hold possession of Batouches' crossing, the main stronghold of the rebels. If it should prove true that Col. Irvine with his Mounted Police force attacked the enemy during their retreat, we may expect to learn within another day of the total rout of the Rielists. At last accounts the steamer Northcote was a few miles down the river below the seat of the engagement between the troops and the rebels. She must have passed through a galling fire.

The following information respecting the addressing of letters to members of the North-West expedition will be useful, and may be relied on, being official:—

After the name, put the designation of the corps to which the party belongs, as "Midland Battalion," or "D. L. S. Scouts." This is most important. If he is known to be at Edmonton, Alberta, at Calgary, Alberta, or at Battleford, Sask., that destination may be put on the letter; if it is only known that he is at Qu'Appelle or farther, the address should be "via. Qu'Appelle, Assa.," while if his whereabouts are wholly unknown, he should be addressed "via. Winnipeg, Man." In every case the words "via. Winnipeg, Man.," should close the address.

At Winnipeg and at Qu'Appelle there are post office clerks charged with the special duty of forwarding military letters.

PROSPECTUS.

The want of a journal devoted to the interests of the force has long been felt by the Militia of Canada, and at no time in the last fifteen years has the opportunity of establishing such a journal seemed so favorable as at present, when the employment of the force in the North-West has shown anew the necessity for its maintenance; when the prompt volunteering and creditable performances of the corps chosen have proven that the faith reposed in them was not misplaced; when a new season of activity in rifle practice is beginning, and when the re-establishment of infantry schools has raised the standard of qualification for the younger officers, and so promises to raise the standard of the whole militia. Notwithstanding this, and the additional advantage of being located at the head-quarters of the force, we feel that the enterprise upon which we are embarking is somewhat venturesome, and that our success must, in a great measure, depend upon the heartiness of our reception by all ranks of the active militia. It will not be sufficient that our plan meet with a general approval; what we ask is that every man in the force who takes a proper interest and pride in his voluntary work should become a subscriber, that those who have anything pertaining to military matters to sell should advertize in our pages, and that those who have any questions to ask respecting military matters, or who have any views or facts which would be of interest to the force, should freely write and ask or offer advice through our columns. By such united action of the force alone can we hope to make this a truly representative organ, develop the highest possibilities of such a journal, and prevent the untimely fate which has overtaken previous ventures in the same line.

Our aim is to keep constantly before the public the wants and aims of the active militia, to discuss briefly and intelligently the topics of most immediate interest to the force, to draw attention to branches of interior economy which have been much neglected in most of our corps, but which tend principally to their efficiency in actual service, to collect in a convenient form, without attempting to usurp the place of a general newspaper, all items of current interest respecting militia matters, and to record the skill of our countrymen in practice with the weapons which the government has placed in our hands, and success with which is the highest qualification of a soldier. So, also, to be truly representative our scope must include the whole Dominion, from the shores of that Nova Scotian island which witnessed the earliest struggles of Britain to obtain supremacy in New France, to those of Vancouver, that most westerly island which is apprehensive of future attack by the navy of Russia in case of war with our mother country.

In carrying out these aims we conceive that it is neither necessary to be a violent partizan nor yet to indulge in personal abuse to impart liveliness and vigor to the journal, and anyone, either reader or contributor, who expects indulgence in this way will be disappointed. We shall endeavor to treat all courteously and fairly, whether we coincide with their views or not, and we shall leave politics severely alone, as it is manifest that a journal espousing either side would fail in that impartiality which alone could commend it to all ranks and sections.

In their first encounter with the forces of the insurrection, the volunteers showed a steadiness and obedience to orders worthy of veterans. They received the deadly fire of the enemy, delivered at a distance so short that buck-shot was fatal, without flinching. Concealed in a ravine, behind trees and boulders, Dumont and his men had not much to fear from rifle shots; and it was difficult for our gunners to get a position from which to shell them with effect. In the battle of Fish Creek the advantages of ground, cover and accuracy of aim were all in favor of the insurgents, by whom every inch of the surface and every spot from

which a shot could be fired with the best advantage were well known. The troops were necessarily exposed to the aim of Dumont's sharpshooters, their only resource being to lie on the ground and partly rise to fire, and it is natural that they should suffer, as they did, severely. Against shells the insurgents had no adequate protection, and after a hard fight of several hours' duration they were compelled to retire. The number of horses belonging to Riel's men killed—fifty-five—shows that the men themselves were in hot quarters. General Middleton successfully guarded against a surprise; his scouts appear to have performed their duty well, and he does not seem to have made any mistake in the disposition of the forces. It is difficult to see what he could have done that would have been an improvement on what was affected. To charge a concealed foe for whom search would have had to be made, during which the troops would have been exposed to a deadly fire, was out of the question. The coolness and self-possession of the veteran commander had a good effect on the men, whose conduct in every particular seems to have been unexceptionable. That the casualties were numerous is due to the conditions under which the fight was carried on, conditions by which the insurgents were able to profit, and which the troops had no choice but to accept. The retirement of the advanced guard of the insurgents back to the main body at Batouche's Crossing was dearly purchased by the number of casualties suffered by the troops. It is a price which, one instinctively feels, it would not do to pay in every future encounter.—*The Week.*

THE CALLING OUT AND DISPOSITION OF THE TROOPS.

Old news as it may be, it is thought well to collect in the initial number of this journal for future reference some short statements of the dates at which troops were called into actual service for the North-West, the progress they made in reaching their destination, and their distribution at the present date as far as can be ascertained:

The beginning of the present trouble may be said to be coincident with Riel's return to the North-West last autumn, on the invitation of the half-breeds of the Prince Albert district to assist them in urging certain claims for land, &c., upon the government, since which time meetings have been held, and as the result has proved, concerted action was arranged. The Mounted Police force, then numbering about 560 men, thinly scattered throughout the Territories, were aware that disaffection existed, but probably did not contemplate results so serious as have arisen. Inspector Crozier, in command at Carleton, having learned that the half-breeds were appropriating stores at Duck Lake, went out with 100 mounted police and armed volunteers of Prince Albert district, to bring them into the fort, and met an armed force of half-breeds and Indians on Beardy's reserve, where an engagement took place, resulting in the death of 12 of Crozier's command and the wounding of many more, and his retirement to Carleton. Next day it was found advisable to abandon Carleton, and Inspector Crozier, who had meanwhile been joined by Supt. Irvine with 100 men, removed to Prince Albert, which settlement they have since protected.

This action was followed on the 31st March by an Indian raid on the town of Battleford, when several settlers and police were killed and much property destroyed; while ten settlers and two priests at Frog Lake and two policemen at Fort Pitt, some fifty miles further north, were, on the 15th April, either massacred, or suffered the worse fate of being made prisoners by the Indians.

On the outbreak of hostilities there were under arms in Ontario and Quebec only two batteries of artillery, two companies of infantry and a troop of cavalry, aggregating about 500 men, but there were also

in the Dominion 37,000 militiamen armed and uniformed, but not fully equipped, who were liable to be called upon.

On receipt of intelligence of the Duck Lake fight about 1,500 men were immediately ordered to the front, which number has since been increased, and Major-General Middleton, the commander of the militia, at once proceeded to Winnipeg and thence to Qu'Appelle to superintend the campaign personally.

In order that the militiamen chosen from the eastern portions might be transported wholly through Canadian territory it was necessary to use the yet uncompleted Canadian Pacific Railway, a route which involved marches over gaps in the road of 76 miles, since gradually diminished, and this was a prime cause of delay and of fatigue to the men. Notwithstanding these drawbacks excellent time was made, as can be seen by consulting the following tabular statement, which includes all the eastern troops called out to date.

Corps taken from existing Active Militia east of Winnipeg.	Head Quarters.	Commanding Officer.	Called Out.	Left Headquarters	Arrival at Winnipeg.	Strength.			
						Officers.	N. C. Officers and Men.	Horses.	Guns.
Regiment of Canadian Artillery.....		Lt.-Col. Montizambert.....							
A Battery.....	Quebec..	Major Peters.....	27 Mar.	28 Mar.	5 April.	4	107	9	2
B Battery.....	Kingston	Major Short.....				8	106	18	2
Gatling Battery.....						1	4	9	2
Toronto Brigade.....		Lt.-Col. Otter.....							
C. Co. Infantry School Corps.....	Toronto..	Major Smith.....	27 Mar.	30 Mar.	7 April.	5	85		
2nd Batt. Q.O.R.....	"	Lt.-Col. Miller.....				18	257		
10th Batt. Royals.....	"	Lt.-Col. Grassetto..	"	"	8 "	17	250		
Gov. - General's Foot Guards, Sharpshooters.....	Ottawa..	Capt. Todd.....	30 "	31 "	"	3	48		
65th Battalion.....	Montreal	Lt.-Col. Ouimet..	27 "	2 April.	10 "	23	317		
York and Simcoe Provisional Battalion..	Toronto..	M.P. Lt.-Col. O'Brien..							
		M.P.	30 "	"	"	27	342		
9th Battalion.....	Quebec..	Lt.-Col. Amyot..	31 "	"	12 "	28	204		
		M.P.							
Midland Prov. Batt..	Kingston	Lt.-Col. A. Williams, M.P.	"	6 "	14 "	34	342		
7th Battalion.....	London..	Lt.-Col. W. Williams.....	"	7 "	15 "	20	237		
Gov. - General's Body Guard.....	Toronto..	Lt.-Col. Denison..	1 April.	6 "	"	6	73	72	
Cavalry School Corps, A Troop.....	Quebec..	Lt.-Col. Turnbull..	10 "	11 "	19 "	3	45	33	
Halifax Prov. Batt. Brigade Garrison Artillery.....	Halifax..	Lt.-Col. Bromner..	31 Mar.	"	22 "	32	349		
	Montreal	Lt.-Col. Oswald..	1 May..	Not yet gone.					
						231	2766	141	6

The rebellion naturally aroused the loyalty of the residents of Manitoba and the North-West, and in a very short space of time new corps were enrolled and organized, until now the list of those on active duty stands as follows:—

Corps.	Headquarters or Station.	Officer Commanding.	Strength.			
			Officers.	N. C. Officers and Men.	Horses.	Guns.
Cavalry Troop.....	Winnipeg.....	Capt. Knight.....	1	75	15	
Field Battery.....	Winnipeg.....	Major Jarvis.....	3	59	18	2
Prov. Light Infantry.....	Winnipeg.....	Lt.-Col. O. Smith.....	29	298		
90th Batt. Infantry.....	Winnipeg.....	Major Mackeand.....	24	280		
91st Prov. Batt.....	Winnipeg.....	Lt.-Col. T. Scott, M.P.	24	48		
Boulton's Scouts.....	With Gen. Middleton	Major Boulton.....	3	40	40	
D. L. S. Scouts.....	Qu'Appelle.....	Capt. J. S. Dennis.....	3	50	50	
Moose Mountain Scouts..	South of Qu'Appelle	Capt. G. W. R. White..	3	51	51	
Stewart's Rangers.....	Calgary and McLeod	Capt. J. Stewart.....	4	150	150	
For Gatling Guns.....					9	
			94	1,381	341	2

Adding to these the Mounted Police, we find a total force now on active duty of over 5,000 men. The following table, from official sources, shows the number and present disposition of the Mounted Police force:—

Prince Albert.....	235
Battleford.....	85
Edmonton, or with General Strange's column.....	65
Calgary.....	16
Fort Macleod.....	50
Medicine Hat, Maple Creek and Southern frontier.....	60
Regina and outposts.....	50

The operations against the insurgents are being conducted by advancing the troops northwards from the railway towards the rebel strongholds in the Saskatchewan valley in three divisions, the first leaving the railway at Qu'Appelle and going towards Prince Albert under General Middleton, with an auxiliary supply route *via* the South Saskatchewan river; the second relieving Battleford by an advance over the prairie from Swift Current, 200 miles, under Lieut.-Col. Otter; and the third advancing on Edmonton from Calgary, about the same distance, under Major-General Strange, R.A., retired list.

General Middleton's forces met the rebels on the 24th April, about 15 miles south of Batoche, on the east bank of the South Saskatchewan and encountered a stubborn resistance, losing 10 killed and 42 wounded, the rebels ultimately retiring and the General going into camp to await supplies, which have just reached him. His forces now consist of the following:—"A" Battery, with two guns, the Winnipeg Field Battery with two guns, one Gatling battery, Boulton's and French's Scouts, the 90th Battalion, the 10th Grenadiers, half of the Midland Battalion, half of "C" School of Infantry, and the D. L. S. Scouts, while the Governor-General's Body Guards are entrenched at Humboldt.

Col. Otter relieved Battleford on the 25th April, and on the 2nd inst. went to Poundmaker's reserve, about 30 miles west of Battleford, to punish the insurgents collected there. He found the Indians in force, and after inflicting heavy loss, during which he had eight men killed and 13 wounded, he returned to Battleford. His force now consists, in addition to the Mounted Police and a local company in garrison, of "B" Battery, with two guns, one gatling gun, the Queen's Own Rifles, the Ottawa sharpshooters, and half of "C" school of infantry.

General Strange reached Edmonton a few days ago, and will probably proceed to Fort Pitt. He has, up to the present, encountered no resistance. There are under his command Inspector Perry's detachment of police with one gun, a troop of local scouts, and the 65th Battalion, with Col. Smith's Winnipeg Battalion, and the 9th at Calgary are following him up.

The remainder of the forces above mentioned are either awaiting orders at Qu'Appelle or engaged in scouring the country south of the railway line, and in garrisoning various forts and points of importance along the railway.

In future issues we propose more fully detailing the movements of the troops as information reaches us from the front.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MIDLAND BATTALION.

SWIFT CURRENT, 15th April, 1885.

You will no doubt wonder at not receiving a line from me before, but ever since we left the eastern end of the iron upon our westward tramp we have not had a moment that we could devote to letter-writing. There were, of course, a few opportunities while upon the train, but the road being new and simply laid upon the frozen snow it was as rough as corduroy, and to write under the circumstances was an impossibility. We have had a long, tedious and thoroughly tiresome march, and here we are encamped upon the prairie two thousand miles from our eastern homes and friends, at a point 213 miles west of Qu'Appelle and 28 miles south of the South Saskatchewan. I have said that our march was a hard one; so severe indeed was it that not a man who went through it but will carry through life recollections of his tramp along the north shore of Lake Superior. To begin with, the country west of the Mattawa is a bleak waste of rock with little if any soil, with no timber beyond a very slender growth of scrub pine, tamarack, birch and poplar, very few of the largest pines being as large as telegraph poles, and worthless for anything but fuel for the railway.

Our railway journey was performed upon flat cars, and as the weather was terribly cold the men almost perished from exposure. From the first Col. Williams announced his intention of pushing his command through in the shortest possible time, and his intention was most literally carried out, as we have made the *shortest* time over the gaps of any corps yet, as proof of which Col. Williams has just received a telegram from the Adjutant-General congratulating him upon the rapidity of his movements.

We had four different gaps to cross, all of which were done on foot by the battalion, the heavy baggage, ammunition, tents, supplies, &c., being carried by mule trains. One march was 27 miles in length, and though it was the longest it was by no means the most severe, but rather the opposite, as it was mainly through the woods and we were not exposed to the bitterly cold winds to which we were subjected when upon the lake. A second tramp of 17 miles we performed at night, starting near midnight and reaching our destination at seven next morning. Having had no sleep for two nights this tramp did more to use up the regiment than all our previous hard work, for there was scarcely an officer or man out of the three hundred and eighty-four whose eyes were not either so sore and inflamed as to be almost useless to him, or who had not a sore throat or scalded feet. As for colds, every man caught one both in the head and chest, and it is considered by all to be a miracle that there were not many deaths from congestion of the lungs, &c. The march from Port Monroe to Jackfish Bay, a distance of 25 miles, was done on foot by every man in the regiment, including even Col. Williams, who, though he had a mount, preferred walking to freezing. It was entirely across the ice, about two miles from shore, and through a regular blizzard of snow and hail, the exposure being something awful for any fellows who were not thoroughly strong and robust. We made the distance in six hours and a half, making four halts of five minutes each, but which, short as they were, added greatly to the discomfort of the men, as being warmed up by walking it was almost like sudden death to keep them standing a moment with a piercing cold wind chilling them to the very marrow. I do not know how the poor devils in the other companies stood it, as they had no fur caps, while my company had the benefit of having very warm and comfortable ones. We had the wind upon one flank the greater portion of the march, so that icicles hung in profusion from the men's whiskers and moustaches, and had it not been for the warm woollen mufflers issued there would have been many frozen ears. My left cheek was covered with ice from my forehead down to my neck in a solid sheet that had to be broken off by force. I have had about everything in the calendar in the way of indispositions, including sore throat, neuralgia, cold in the head and chest and blistered feet. However, the excitement, together with the fact that almost all hands were similarly affected, makes one treat his ills as a matter of course and with a feeling of indifference. I had no chance of using the spirit lamp which I had taken along the route, some fellow having gone through my bag for the spirits, thinking it was whisky. However, perhaps it kept some poor devil from half-freezing at night, and so I have no ill-will against him.

On reaching Winnipeg the weather, which had been disagreeably cold, opened out bright and beautifully mild and summer-like. The men piled arms on the station platform and we had one hour for breakfast, the nearly 400, and all ranks, thoroughly enjoying the silver plate and fine table-linen and cutlery of the railway restaurant. Our orders were to go under canvas there and await further commands. We proceeded to do so, but as we were marching up through the city a telegram was handed the Colonel from the sidewalk directing us to proceed with all despatch to Qu'Appelle. We at once turned to the front and

gave three cheers for the orders that were to send us nearer to the front, and in another hour we were moving westward by rail.

At Brandon we had a most wonderful reception at the hands of the ladies, who literally swarmed upon us and distributed cold meats, sandwiches, cakes and confectionery in wholesale quantities and seemingly regardless of cost. The day was warm and lovely and the many pretty and stylishly dressed ladies present took us all by storm, by their extraordinary kindnesses. To do them justice they treated us all as old friends, with the best of grace, without a feather of their plumage being ruffled at our familiar and extravagant praise of their lavishness, but upon the contrary seeming only to want more blarney. I thought to myself, when leaving, that for a fellow who had fed on Government rations for a fortnight, and done the Lake Superior route, Brandon was about the softest billet he could strike.

After leaving Brandon we got orders to proceed to Swift Current, and so passed on through Qu'Appelle and Regina without stopping. The remainder of the day was so warm and beautiful that the men sat in their shirt sleeves with all the car windows open. After leaving Brandon we saw myriads of wild geese, with ducks of all kinds, while a couple of antelopes ran parallel to the train at a distance of about a hundred yards, until there was no more run in them and they dropped behind. We had no ammunition that we could get at; otherwise they might have been bagged. Along the line we gathered hundreds of the beautiful wild crocus flowers, with which both officers and men decorated their hats, &c. I fancy you will hardly credit this story about the flowers, but as facts speak for themselves I will enclose some for your inspection, only regretting that you cannot see them in all their natural loveliness upon the prairie.* We reached this point yesterday (Wednesday) afternoon, and are under canvass with four companies of the 35th Battalion. Upon our arrival the weather took a very sudden change again and immediately opened out bleak and cold, with a prairie wind blowing half a gale from the north last night. We occupied to-day in light infantry and firing exercises, and the small lakes upon three sides of us, notwithstanding our presence, are teeming with swans, geese and ducks. As a consequence, all the sportsmen are regretting not having their shot guns along and being able, like Dr. Horsey, who has his, to parade a good bag. At five this evening Major-General Laurie arrived with Lt.-Col. Straubenzie, and took over the command, so that we are now under the command of a General from the regular forces. At seven this evening Col. Osborne Smith, Provisional Battalion of Infantry, passed, en route for Calgary, so that there is now enough militia to do all the business that could possibly arise. Our stay here is uncertain, but we understand that we are to be held in readiness for a quick move, to either the North Saskatchewan or Edmonton, as General Middleton may direct. There are some two hundred Indians about twelve miles north of this, who swooped down upon the place and took what they wanted from the stores here; but since the arrival of the first troops on Monday the traders say that both Indians and half breeds are so frightened at the appearance of the military that they will not trust themselves near the place. We have been hearing such wild cat stories all along the line that I am afraid we may err upon the side of incredulity. However, our sentries, which are all doubled, were unusually alert last night, being all mounted with loaded arms, while the officers slept with their loaded revolvers under their pillows. Under the circumstances we were pretty well prepared to resist any "hair lifting." Somehow one can't help feeling that it looks like business when ball ammunition is served out and sentries are mounted with loaded rifles. With their entire time occupied in roughing and toughing it along the route, our fellows have neither had

time nor inclination to discuss the chances of seeing any real fighting, but with a spirit that would do credit to any command their whole desire has been to push on to the front, and if they don't get a hand in in any thing that is going it will not be their fault, nor that of their officers, for all alike want to have a whack at Riel and his half breeds. Our stay in Winnipeg was so short that no one had an opportunity of getting anything or seeing anybody except those friends who came to see us off at the station.

THE MEDICAL SERVICE.

The importance of an efficient medical service in the various branches of the active force of the Dominion cannot be overestimated, and this is true in times of peace and in the annual camp manoeuvres, as well as in times of actual service such as these through which part of our militia are now passing.

Up to the present comparatively little attention has been bestowed on this factor in our militia system, and it is the intention of this journal to devote a space to its consideration under competent supervision, in the hope that such a channel will be made use of and appreciated by the surgeons of the militia.

Contributions to this column are solicited from those who take an interest in having the medical arm of the service placed on its proper footing.

The following temporary medical appointments and field hospitals were gazetted in general orders of 24th April, in connection with the force now on duty in the N.W.T.:

MEDICAL STAFF.

To be Surgeon-General: Lieut.-Col. Darby Bergin, M.D., M.P., of Cornwall, Ont.
To be Deputy Surgeon-General: Thomas G. Roddick, M.D., of Montreal, Que.
To be Purveyor: Hon. Michael Sullivan, M.D., Senator, of Kingston, Ont.

FIELD HOSPITAL No. 1.

To be Surgeon-Major: Campbell Melles Douglas, V.C., late Deputy Surgeon-General H.M.'s Service.
To be Surgeons: Dr. James Bell, of Montreal, Que.
Dr. Edward A. Graveley, of Cornwall, Ont.
Dr. J. Reddick, of Winchester, Ont.
Dr. E. Hopper, of Kingston, Ont.
Dr. Fred. Hamilton Powell, of Ottawa, Ont.

FIELD HOSPITAL No. 2.

To be Surgeon-Major: Dr. Henry Raymond Casgrain, of Windsor, Ont.
To be Surgeons: Dr. R. Tracy, of Belleville, Ont.
Dr. N. O. Walker, of Toronto, Ont.
Dr. Francis Murray, of Montreal, Que.
Dr. Cloutier, of St. Arsène, Que.
Dr. Philippe Pelletier, of Quebec, Que.

Surgeon-General Bergin has made arrangements for the construction of several ambulance carts for the ready conveyance of medicines and instruments. These will be similar to those now in use in the United States Army Medical Service, and are designed to include all necessary articles in the most compact form possible.

It is gratifying to us to know that our sick and wounded soldiers have not been forgotten by one, now separated from us by the broad Atlantic, who nevertheless continues to evince a kindly interest in our welfare, and we are sure is deeply pained at Canada's misfortune. We refer of course to H. R. H. the Princess Louise, who recently cabled the offer of an ambulance and some men for the North-West, and offered to bear the expense of such an organization. The gracious offer has been accepted by the Minister of Militia, and the kind act will not soon be forgotten by the Canadian public.

* *Anemone patens*, with which the prairie is literally carpeted in early Spring.

THE TARGET.

RIFLE CLUBS.

Now that unfortunately the Militia has had to furnish a quota of its members for active service in the N. W. the question of efficient weapons and a thorough knowledge of their use has obtained a prominence greater than at any time since its formation. All are aware of the duties of the members of the force, and that one—if not the principal of them all—is the perfect knowledge of the use and manipulation of the arms with which they have been supplied. Men may be taught the manual and firing exercises in the drill shed or camp, but they cannot be taught shooting. Here the question arises, Can they be taught? The answer simply is, they can, by the formation in every company or regimental district of a rifle club.

In this the Capital shows a good example to the Dominion. Ten years ago the "Ottawa Rifle Club" was formed with the expressed intention of encouraging rifle shooting, and loyally have its members worked for that object. The club during the first years of its existence tried many plans to accomplish the end it had in view, and in 1878 established "spoon competitions," which may best be explained by detailing the "arrangements for 1885." During the ensuing season there will be *fifteen* competitions for spoons—a silver desert spoon for the first prize, and a silver teaspoon for the second, *nine* of which will be shot with the Snider, and *four* with the Martini at Queen's ranges, and *two* with the Martini at 800 yards. The club affiliates with the D. R. A. and O. R. A., and the medals obtained are to be shot for with the Snider, ten shots at Queen's ranges. Prizes will be given for the two best aggregates consisting of the *five* best scores in the Snider competitions; a prize for the *three* best scores in the Martini competitions at the Queen's ranges; a prize for the *two* best scores at 800 yards; and another for the best grand aggregate consisting of *five* Snider and *three* Martini scores at the Queen's ranges; and further a prize has been offered in connection with a tournament to be shot during the season. The spoons—of sterling silver, suitably engraved—are provided by the club, the aggregate prizes have been given by certain of the members.

This club has 40 members, who pay \$2 each yearly. The entrance fee to each spoon match is 25 cents, and for the aggregates 50 and 25 cents respectively. No member is obliged to shoot for spoons or to enter for an aggregate, as he has the privilege of shooting in all the matches of the club, by virtue of his membership, and, to a certain extent, this is taken advantage of by the younger shots, who in shooting with their seniors have the opportunity of perfecting themselves; and it may fairly be added that the older shots are most unselfish in assisting the beginners with all possible information as to elevation, windage, &c.; and that the good shooting of the Ottawa men is principally due to the skill and knowledge they have obtained as members of the club. The competitions are held upon the Rideau range on Saturday afternoons, and four targets are used, the greater part of the membership fees being expended in paying the markers.

At the annual meeting of the Ottawa Rifle Club, held last month, the following officers were chosen for the ensuing year:—President, Capt. Perley, H.Q.S.; 1st Vice-President, Mr. A. P. Sherwood; 2nd Vice-President, Major Wm. P. Anderson; Secretary-Treasurer, Capt. Todd; Committee, Major McPherson, Dr. Hutchinson and Mr. James Grant.

In this column we propose giving in our next issue a description of a cheap butt and target, suitable for a rural range, and which could be put up by the members of a club without skilled assistance and at very little cost.

The programme of the D. R. A. matches is in the hands of the printer, and we hope to be in a position to notice it in an early issue.

OTTAWA, Ont., 9th May.—The Rideau Range was opened for the year this afternoon during a heavy rain storm by the first snider spoon competition of the Ottawa Rifle Club, 200, 500, and 600 yards, 7 shots, one sighting shot. The poor scores are, doubtless, to be explained by the unfavorable weather.

200 500 600				T'l	200 500 600				T'l
yds.	yds.	yds.			yds.	yds.	yds.		
Mr. H. Walters.....	26	25	28	79	Capl. Waldo.....	29	16	16	61
(Desertspoon.)					Mr. J. A. Armstrong.....	29	20	12	61
Mr. N. Morrison.....	26	33	18	75	Capt. Perley.....	23	23	14	60
Mr. W. Short.....	27	20	25	72	Mr. A. F. Cotton.....	19	15	25	59
(Teaspoon.)					Mr. E. D. Sutherland...	28	13	16	56
Lieut. Sherwood.....	30	17	25	72	Mr. J. Deslauriere.....	24	13	14	50
Mr. J. Hutchison.....	27	25	19	71	Dr Hutchison.....	26	15	9	50
Mr. W. A. Jamieson.....	27	27	17	71	Mr. A. Pink.....	29	12	6	47
Lieut. J. O. Chamberlin	27	28	15	70	Mr. R. N. Slater.....	18	11	12	41
Mr. R. Galloway.....	27	19	17	63	Lieut. C. M. Wright.....	25	11	4	40

We shall be glad to receive from secretaries of rifle clubs and associations or from others in any part of the Dominion, for publication in this column, practice or competition scores, with condensed descriptions of the meetings.

PERSONAL.

The death of Lieutenant-Colonel William Nassau Kennedy, late Commanding Officer of the 90th Battalion, which occurred in London, England, on the third instant, from small-pox, presumably contracted in the Soudan, was learned with extreme regret by all that officers friends, and it may be truly said that they included the whole Militia force of the Dominion, for his fame as a thorough soldier and an enthusiastic volunteer was spread wherever a militia-general order could reach. It seems especially sad that while his zeal to serve his Queen led him to a foreign country his battalion should be unexpectedly called to defend his own land, and that after passing through all the perils of war in the Soudan he should be struck down by disease while hastening to place himself at the head of the troops which he would have been so proud to lead.

Those who attended the Dominion meeting last autumn will remember the genial captain of the Manitoba team, Captain Wm. Clark, of the 90th Battalion, who was wounded at Fish Creek. He is a Scotchman, of splendid physique and a capital shot, having achieved renown at Wimbledon as a British volunteer before his emigration to Canada. The contradiction of the first report received, that his wound was likely to prove fatal, was a matter of warm congratulation among the many friends he made during his short first visit here.

Captain Wise, another of the wounded, is an Ottawa man. He was one of the first graduates of the Royal Military College, and won a commission in the army in consequence of his high rank on graduating. General Middleton's choice of him as Aide-de-Camp, on appointment to the command of the militia, was particularly acceptable to us Canadians, and Captain Wise's bearing in his first engagement has amply justified that choice.

Lieut. Freer, who has been summoned to join the General's staff, is also a Canadian who won a commission in the British army in the same way. He had the good fortune to win the Tel-el-Kebir and Egyptian medals while yet a young soldier, and his experience in that campaign and as Adjutant of "B" School of Infantry will now be invaluable to Canada.

Under the general order of 24th April, authorizing a chaplain for each battalion on actual service, if chosen by the corps, such chaplain to receive the pay "of a captain, with free transport and rations during such days as he is employed with his corps in such service," the 90th Battalion have chosen Rev. D. M. Gordon, the popular pastor of Knox church, Presbyterian, in Winnipeg, and he has joined the regiment at Fish Creek.

A detachment of the 8th Royal Rifles, which had been garrisoning the Citadel at Quebec since "A" Battery left for the North-West, was relieved on the 7th instant by the Quebec Field Battery.

Commanding officers of corps are particularly requested to have transmitted, to this Journal, for publication, everything of interest that transpires in their respective districts.

HINTS FOR MARCHING MEN.

1. Clothes which have become wet with perspiration during the day should not be slept in, but should be hung up to dry and air.
2. At night, non-commissioned officers in charge of tents or huts should be careful not to shut *all* the ventilators. Sleeping in a vitiated atmosphere tends to produce headache and sickness in the morning.
3. It should be remembered that the foot increases by nearly one-eighth of its size in marching, boots should therefore be proportionately large. The slightest pressure on the great toe soon cripples. Socks should be of wool, free from darns, and worn inside out.
4. Smoking on the march weakens the heart's action, and is liable to produce faintness when the battalion comes to a halt.
5. Spirits taken on the march often distress the breathing, especially if the pace is quick or the road hilly. Tea is the most invigorating drink.
6. Small quantities of food only should be taken at the mid-day halt. A good breakfast should be taken at starting, and a good supper in the evening.
7. After the march some kind of warm drink, tea or coffee, should be taken.
8. The attention of those who are subject to galled feet is directed to the following points: The feet should be hardened by the frequent use of alum baths for a week or two before marching (two table-spoonfuls of powdered alum to be added to sufficient water to cover the feet). On the morning of the march, the feet should be washed, wiped dry, and then rubbed over with soft soap. If blisters occur on the march, the fact should be reported at once. Broken blisters are difficult to deal with.—From "Militia General Orders" of 10th April, 1885.

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NOTICE.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Indian Supplies," will be received at this office up to noon on Monday, 25th May, 1885, for the delivery of Indian Supplies during the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1886, consisting of Flour, Bacon, Groceries, Ammunition, Twine, Oxen, Cows, Bulls, Agricultural Implements, Tools, &c., duty paid, in Manitoba and the North-West Territories.

Forms of tender containing full particulars relative to the supplies required, dates of delivery, &c., may be had by applying to the undersigned, or to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at Regina, or to the Indian Office, Winnipeg.

Parties may tender for each description of goods, or any portion of each description of goods, separately or for all the goods called for in the schedules.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque in favor of the Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs on a Canadian Bank for at least five per cent. of the tenders for Manitoba, and ten per cent. of the amount of the tenders for the North-West Territories, which will be forfeited if the party tendering decline to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or if he fails to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

Tenderers are required to make up in the money columns in the Schedule the total money value of the goods they offer to supply or their tender will not be entertained.

Each tender must, in addition to the signature of the tenderer, be signed by two sureties acceptable to the Department, for the proper performance of the contract.

In all cases where transportation may be only partial by rail, contractors must make proper arrangements for supplies to be forwarded at once from railway stations to their destination in the Government Warehouse at the point of delivery.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

L. VANKOUGHNET,
Deputy of the Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs,
Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, 19th March, 1885.



North-West Mounted Police

RECRUITS are now being engaged at MONTREAL, OTTAWA, QUEBEC, HALIFAX and St. JOHN.

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3rd "	50	10	60 "
4th "	50	15	65 "
5th "	50	20	70 "

Extra pay is allowed to a limited number of blacksmiths, carpenters and other artisans.

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OTTAWA, May 8th, 1885.

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Money Orders may also be granted at other Money Order Offices in Canada, for payment at the Offices named.

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TENDERS

SEALED TENDERS, marked "For Mounted Police Provisions and Light Supplies," and addressed to the Honorable the President of the Privy Council, Ottawa, will be received up to Noon on THURSDAY, 14th May.

Printed forms of tenders, containing full information as to the articles and quantities required, may be had on application at Fort Osborne, Winnipeg, at any of the Mounted Police Posts in the North-West, or at the office of the undersigned.

No tender will be received unless made on such printed forms.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted Canadian Bank Cheque for an amount equal to ten per cent. of the total value of the articles tendered for, which will be forfeited if the party decline to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or if he fails to complete the service contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

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FRED. WHITE,
Comptroller.

Ottawa, 23rd March, 1885.

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SEALED TENDERS, marked on the left hand corner of the envelope, "Tenders for Militia Clothing, Store Supplies and Necessaries," addressed to the Honorable the Minister of Militia and Defence, will be received up to noon of Monday, the 18th May, 1885.

Printed forms of tenders, containing full particulars, may be obtained from the Department at Ottawa and at the following Militia Stores, where also sealed patterns of all articles may be seen, viz.:—The offices of the Superintendents of Stores at London, Toronto, Kingston, Montreal, Quebec and St. John, N.B.

No tender will be received unless made on printed forms furnished by the Department.

The material of all articles will be required to be of Canadian manufacture and Canadian workmanship.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted Canadian bank cheque, for an amount equal to ten per cent. of the total value of the articles tendered for, which will be forfeited if the party making the tender declines to sign a contract when called on to do so, or if he fails to complete the service contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

The Department will not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

C. EUG. PANET,
Deputy of the Minister of Militia and Defence.

Ottawa, 30th April, 1885.

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