

ordered him into the guard-room. Six others also refused to fall in. Col. Ouimet was then sent for, and he ordered the men to fall in. Private Conway said he would fall in, but would not go to church, and used some disrespectful language. He was sent to the guard-room. The remaining five fell in and the Colonel told off three for extra guard duty and ordered the remaining two, on their still refusing to go, to the guard-room with Conway and Cawthorne. On Monday the four who had been sent to the guard-room were brought up for trial before the Colonel. Conway was not allowed to speak in his own behalf, and was sent to the bastion for eight days on bread and water. The remaining three were dismissed. If the foregoing is not a gross violation of the Queen's regulations, as well as an outrage on religious liberty, besides being most impolitic, it certainly bears that appearance."

The circumstances will doubtless form the subject of an official enquiry, but in the meantime it is opportune to explain the law. The Militia Regulations declare that "every man is to be at full liberty to attend the worship of Almighty God according to the forms prescribed by his own religion, when military duty does not interfere," and the Articles of War, under the head, "Crimes and Punishments," provide that "any officer or soldier who, not having any just impediment, shall not attend divine service in the place appointed for the assembling of the corps to which he belongs * * * shall be liable, if an officer, to such punishment as by a general court-martial shall be awarded, and, if a soldier, to such punishment as by a general, district, or garrison court-martial shall be awarded." It will thus be seen that, while no officer or soldier can be required to violate the dictates of his conscience, it is nevertheless a breach of discipline to neglect or refuse to attend divine service performed according to the individual's own religious belief. Let us have the facts on the other side!

It is satisfactory to note that the proposed public receptions to the returning troops are to be divested of the feature of addresses and speeches, and all should appreciate the self-abnegation shown by the boys who generally take advantage of such opportunities, in consenting to forego their favorite indulgence on this particular occasion. As regards Toronto, the reception, as now proposed to be given the city corps, is eminently sensible and practical, and the absence of triumphal arches and such like formal preparations will enable the demonstration to be characterized by perfect spontaneity on the part of the citizens who will doubtless do their best by individual decorations to show their sentiments plainly.

THE DUTY OF THE HOUR.

The operations of war invariably leave widespread distress and demoralisation in the country which has been fought over. It would accordingly be altogether exceptional if peace and plenty could be looked for on the North Saskatchewan for some time to come. The accounts too plainly show that the results of the rebellion have been disastrous beyond expectation to both loyalists and rebels. Houses have been burnt or looted, horses have been appropriated for military purposes by one side or the other, oxen and cows have been made use of by the troops' commissariat or the rebel commanders, stocks of provisions and clothing have been consumed or wasted, and, worse than all, circumstances have prevented the crops from being put in as usual.

What are the people to do in the present, and how can they possibly provide for themselves and their families during the winter which will be upon them before they can by personal efforts hope to have matters in shape again? Not only are the white settlers in the neighborhood of Battleford and throughout the North Saskatchewan country in desperate straits, but the circumstances of numerous half-breed families in St. Laurent, whose

natural supporters have been slain or wounded in the recent engagements—to say nothing of those who are in custody awaiting their trial—are equally pitiable. It is true the distress now suffered by these latter is the natural result of a wicked and unprovoked rising. Still, it must be remembered that in numerous cases those who are perfectly innocent suffer equally with individuals who have actually taken part with the rebels, or openly sympathized with them. What, then, is the duty of the Canadian Government in this emergency? Surely to act upon the sentiment expressed in the following verse of the well-known song, "The Englishman":—

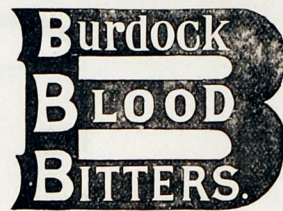
"There's a heart that beats with a burning glow
The wronged and the weak to defend,
And it strikes as soon for a trampled foe
As it does for a soul-bound friend."

No one can doubt that the settlers, whose homesteads have been devastated and whose stock has been taken from them, are entitled to be assisted by an appropriation from the public exchequer, and certainly the innocent wives and children of the vanquished rebels have an equally sound claim to consideration in this period of their dire distress. It would be shameful indeed, were they permitted to perish. Canada is rich enough to perform the necessary act of generosity in this respect, and the public will give hearty approval to any measure of relief that the Government may propose to Parliament. The main difficulty will lie in ensuring the proper distribution of such funds as may be appropriated. The occasion is sure to be taken advantage of by the idle and the shiftless, and the firmest stand will have to be made against the designs of a fraternity as fully represented in the North-West as elsewhere. The expenditure of the funds voted for relieving the necessities of the sufferers can by no means be safely entrusted to ordinary political appointees, or a comparatively small residuum of the amount supplied is likely to reach the parties who should benefit by it. The distribution should be committed to men only of the highest character for probity; and, lest the accusation should be made that the fund is likely to be utilized for political purposes, it would be highly prudent if the commissioners who handle it were representative of both sides of the House.

While it will undoubtedly be necessary to provide present relief in the form of rations for those absolutely destitute, it would be well if some local public works of practical utility could be set on foot with as little delay as possible, so that all who are willing to work may be able to maintain their families without being subjected to the degradation of pauperisation. If the construction of the North-West Central and other railways, to be aided by free grants of Dominion lands, could be started immediately the difficulties of the situation might more readily be met.

AMBULANCE CLASSES.

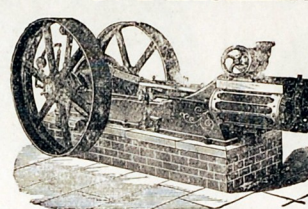
The establishment of ambulance classes in the large cities of Britain for policemen and others likely to be called upon in cases of accidents, is meeting with great success. The other day, in London, a policeman, who had taken a few lessons from an ambulance society, so skillfully bound up a poor woman's leg, that the house surgeon of the hospital where she was carried declared she would have died upon the road but for the policeman's timely aid. The fracture was a serious one. The *Ottawa Free Press* remarks:—"How many lives are annually wasted in our backwoods and rural districts, especially for the want of timely aid! The sight of blood too frequently frightens and unnerves the onlooker, so that he becomes bereft of that common sense which ought to be applied to arresting the flow of the life-tide of the injured person. Who will establish an ambulance corps at the capital and train the foremen and others among the shantymen in a few simple methods of treating wounds and fractures? There is no place where such rudimentary training would be so valuable as in the lumber districts of Canada."



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COL. IRVINE AND HIS CRITICS.

Those who have ventured to apply the term "gophers" to the Mounted Police have certainly not fully considered how they have done their full share of the work of the campaign at Duck Lake, Cut Knife Creek, Loon Lake, Fort Pitt, and elsewhere, and, as an epithet bestowed in connection with Colonel Irvine's inaction at Prince Albert, it is surely undeserved. Public opinion at first condemned that officer for not co-operating with General Middleton at Batoche; but subsequent information showed that after he had set out he met a courier who handed him orders to return. There is the best reason to believe that the subsequent orders sent to him failed to come to hand, as an ex-courier who lately arrived in Winnipeg declared that he had destroyed the despatches he was carrying to Prince Albert, in order to prevent them from falling into the hands of the enemy. W.G., a correspondent of the *Mail*, writing from Prince Albert, fully explains the difficulties by which Irvine was beset, as follows:—

"The worst enemy Irvine had to contend against was not the open foe in Riel's camp, but the traitors within his own lines. In the first place it was well known that the greater number of the English half-breeds who had come into the town were in full sympathy with Riel, and would seize the first opportunity offering, in case of a reverse to the Queen's troops, of joining with the rebels and giving the town and the people over to them. These men did not come in to fight against Riel, but because they were afraid to remain out in the country near the hostile Indians. It is true many of them enlisted as volunteers, but because they wanted to draw rations for themselves and their families, an order having been issued that no rations should be served out to families whose heads would not do military duty. These half-breeds had at first determined to remain neutral, but the wild Indian frightened them in from their homes. And here it may be well to deny the statement that farmers were not allowed out of the town to sow their grain. Many of them you could not have driven out, while others no sane man would have allowed to go at the

time, for it would simply have been for the purpose of conveying news to and from Riel's camp. The weak point at Prince Albert was that she had this strong and secret foe within her own town limits."

WHITE TRAITORS AT PRINCE ALBERT.

THE *Mail* of Tuesday last, commenting upon the statements of a correspondent, makes the following remarks, which, supposing the facts to be correct, represent the views of all loyal Canadians:—"It is quite evident both from his letters and from the testimony that is flowing in from other sources, that the real leaders of the rebellion were white men. Some of them may have been Conservatives as the *Globe* seeks to show; but whether they were Tories or Reformers is a matter of small moment. They were rebels, and as such they ought to be punished to the full extent of the law. It will not do for the Government to hang or imprison half-breeds and Indians if these white culprits are to be let go. Such a course would result inevitably in a fresh rebellion much more formidable than the one just crushed, for every man with Indian blood in his veins would then have a substantial and well-founded grievance. We repeat again that the Department of Justice will incur a grave responsibility if it fails to lay hands upon the actual ringleaders. A letter sent to this office by a person of note on the spot says the Black-foot chiefs in the Calgary region, who kept their hands out of the recent troubles, are watching the course of the Government in these trials with the keenest attention. They know well the inner history of the rebellion, and are probably better acquainted with the part played by the Prince Albert whites in inciting the rising than the Government itself; and they say frankly that 'if a rebel is to be punished because he is an Indian, while another is to escape because he is a white man, they will not be answerable for the consequences hereafter.' The matter is one of the gravest possible importance to the future of the North-West, and we cannot too strongly urge upon the Government the necessity of administering justice with an impartial as well as a resolute hand."

DELORME, a member of Riel's Council and a valiantly wounded rebel in Batoche's fight, is being taken to Regina with others for trial.