

The Seaforths and the Strikers: Nanaimo, August 1913

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During the course of its long history, the Canadian Military¹ has been called out "in aid of the civil power" on numerous occasions. More recently floods and forest fires have been major causes, but earlier in this century "aid to the civil power" frequently meant supporting local police who were unable to cope with the unrest or disorder caused by a major strike. This particular type of aid was probably the most disliked task a militia regiment might be called upon to perform.

Strikes by miners in the Nanaimo area had resulted in the militia being called out in 1877 and again in 1890. Twenty-two years later, in 1912, a series of events took place which once again set the miners against the managers and owners of the coal mines in the area. In part the miners were striving for union recognition, they wanted greater safety precautions in the mines, and there were a number of other issues which the miners felt must be resolved. In September the strike began, and as usual it was met by management with the hiring or retention of non-union workers together with the employment, from Victoria and elsewhere, of a large number of special constables to protect the property of the mining companies.

As the months dragged on the situation got uglier. There were confrontations and constant threats between the strikers and the working miners. By the late summer of 1913, following riots, arson and "shoot-outs," the situation was such it was obvious that law and order could no longer be maintained either by the local police or the special constabulary. It was at this point that the call went out for the militia.

¹ The "permanent" or "regular" soldiers were referred to for a long time as the Permanent Active Militia. The "reserve" or "part-time" soldiers were termed the Non-Permanent Active Militia.

Among the regiments and corps called upon for this duty was the 72nd Regiment, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, located in Vancouver. It had come into being in November 1910. Prior to its commitment to Nanaimo the regiment had very little training in military affairs and none in what would now be termed riot control. A few of the officers and other ranks had seen service in the Boer War and others, without doubt, had served some years in the British army. There would be, therefore, a thin layer of officers and men with some peacetime or wartime experience. For the most part, however, the volunteer militia would have only one or two evenings of training each week through the fall and winter months while the highlight of training during the year would be a week or ten days in a summer camp. In a word, like most other militia units in Canada at the time, the 72nd Regiment was composed mostly of enthusiastic amateurs. Simple arms and foot drill, minor field tactics, some range work and lectures on military affairs took up most of their time. As potential peace keepers — or indeed peace makers — they had little knowledge and no experience.

The account which follows was written by Captain William Rae, the Adjutant of the 72nd Regiment at the time. Although undated, it was probably written in September or October 1913 at the request of Lt.-Col. John A. Hall, who was commanding the "Civil Aid Force in Nanaimo" at the request of the District Officer Commanding, Colonel A. Roy, the senior permanent force officer in British Columbia.

Although interesting in itself, Rae's narrative is modest about the deportment and discipline of his men who were thrust into a tense situation with little to guide them but their own good sense supported by such military discipline they had absorbed as volunteer militia. In the two weeks they were on duty not a shot was fired nor were there any physical clashes between soldiers and strikers.

Rae's last paragraph is particularly poignant in view of later events. A year after this event Canada was at war, and a good proportion of the officers and men who served in Nanaimo were to be killed or wounded overseas. The same is probably true of the strikers.

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NARRATIVE AND APPRECIATION OF EVENTS ON
VANCOUVER ISLAND, AUGUST 14th-31st, 1913.

By Capt. W. Rae.

At 2:15 p.m. on Thursday, 14th August, 1913, instructions were received from the D.O.C., M.D. No. 11,² for the 72nd Regiment to proceed to Cumberland, V.I. on Strike Duty. Orders were at once issued for mobilization, and the regiment paraded at 6 p.m. As further orders had by that time been received from Headquarters, the men were dismissed and ordered to parade again at 10 p.m. with Kit Bags complete and Rations for 24 hours. The Regiment paraded as ordered and left Vancouver by S.S. "Princess Patricia" at midnight. The Regiment had a rather mixed reception in marching through the streets, a good deal of hostility being shown by a section of the crowd, but it may be noted that there was no sign of this on the return. A guard of 1 Sergeant and 5 Men was left at Headquarters, and 20 Officers and 167 other ranks embarked. Including the detachments leaving Vancouver on the two following days and other details, 256 men in all were on duty, but the greatest strength actually mobilised at any one time was about 230. Two Companies 6th Regt. D.C.O.R.³ strength—6 Officers and 100 other ranks joined at the boat, and 1 Officer C.E. [Canadian Engineers], 1 Officer and 5 Men C.A.M.C. [Canadian Army Medical Corps] and 11 N.C.Os and men C.A.S.C. [Canadian Army Service Corps] were attached. The whole force proceeding to Cumberland was under the command of Major J. S. Tait,⁴ 72nd Regt. and the Adjutant was Capt. W. Rae⁵ 72nd Regt. The machine gun of the 72nd Regt. was taken along, but no blankets or equipment of any kind except the men's Kit Bags and 12,000 rounds of ammunition of which 20 rounds per man was issued prior to embarkation. A similar supply was carried by the 6th Regt.

The S.S. "Patricia" not being fitted with sleeping accommodation, all ranks had to sleep in the saloons and passage-ways, the Officers being given the dining saloon. Union Bay was reached about 5 a.m. on the 15th and after some delay a train was procured to carry the force to Cumberland, which

² The District Officer Commanding, Military District 11 (i.e., British Columbia) was Colonel A. Roy.

³ The 6th Regiment, the Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles, originated in 1883 but was converted from artillery to infantry in 1899. Like the 72nd Regiment, the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, it was located in Vancouver. So, too, were the detachments mentioned immediately below in the text, i.e., C.E. (Canadian Engineers), C.A.M.C. (Canadian Army Medical Corps) and C.A.S.C. (Canadian Army Service Corps).

⁴ Lt.-Col. J. S. Tait was appointed to command the 72nd Regiment in 1914. Born in Scotland in 1875, he came to Vancouver in 1897 and was agent for Crawford and Stuart, cannery suppliers. He was closely associated with community projects as well as military and social life in Vancouver.

⁵ Captain William Rae was born in Scotland in 1883 and educated at Aberdeen University. He had been an officer in the Gordon Highlanders before coming to Vancouver when he joined the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada in 1910. He had a distinguished record of service overseas in 1914-1918.

was reached about 7 a.m. Arms were piled on the football ground and sentries posted, and then enquiries were made as to suitable billeting accommodation. A new school adjoining the football field was found to be available and quarters allotted to the troops there. A field kitchen, incinerator and latrines were dug under the supervision of Lt. Robertson, C.E., and a water supply was laid on to the cook-house by the municipality. Cooking utensils and food were purchased in the village and a hot meal was got ready by mid-day while by supper time the cookhouse was organized in practically the manner in which it remained permanently, except that later on overhead shelters and benches were added.

The Officers were given the use of a large dwelling-house, standing in fine grounds of its own near the football field. As it was some three hundred yards distant from the school a guard of 20 men was posted in it at night with some signallers, and signal lamps placed in view of the sentries at both places, so that communication could be established immediately. One Officer per company and the Orderly Officer slept in the school.

At 4 p.m. one Company 6th Regt. D.C.O.R., was sent to Union Bay to guard extensive bunkers and tipples of the Colliery Co., all of whose shipping is done from that point. Owing to the extent of ground to be covered this meant very heavy duty on all ranks.

On the night of the 15th, in addition to a double guard at the school and the guard at the Officers Quarters, pickets were also sent to the pithead and railway station. All except the quarter guard dismounted at Reveille.

On the morning of the 16th drill, principally firing exercise, was held before breakfast, but rain coming on prevented any outdoor parades for the rest of the day. As many of the N.C.Os of both Regiments seemed quite ignorant of guard duties, a lecture was given to all N.C.Os on this subject in the forenoon in place of drill.

All arrangements were made for the usual camp routine on Sunday the 17th August, including a church parade, but on the afternoon of the 16th, orders were received from H.Q. to proceed to Nanaimo next day, leaving only a detachment at Cumberland. To prevent any leakage of information the orders for the move were not communicated to the men until after first post, which was advanced half an hour for this reason.

On the 17th Reveille was at 2:15 a.m. and after hot coffee had been served the force, except No. 3 Double Co., 72nd Regt. and details which were left at Cumberland under command of Lt. Wilson⁶ — left Cumberland and, picking up the detachment at Union Bay, proceeded from that port to Nanaimo at 5:30 a.m. on the S.S. "Charmer". Nanaimo was reached at 9 a.m. and camp pitched on an open space opposite the Post Office. The ground was very small and had to be utilized to the utmost to accommodate the force. It had the additional disadvantage of being absolutely open to the street and the sentry beats on the front of the camp were along the sidewalk. Blankets were issued here, and tents in the proportion of 1 tent for 16 men,

⁶ Born in 1880, Lt. A. D. Wilson had been commissioned in the 72nd Regiment in 1911. He served overseas in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, was awarded the D.S.O., and later commanded the Seaforths from 1924-28.

but the detachment at Cumberland were without either tents or blankets until 19th August, and slept on the bare floors of the school until this time with only their great coats. The A.S.C. [Army Service Corps] had not even this covering.

Sunday 17th August was spent at Nanaimo in getting the camp in order. A boat guard of 50 men with 3 Officers was furnished each time on the arrival and departure of the "Princess Patricia" and one Officer was on duty at the Government Telegraph Office during the hours it was open inspecting all messages sent and received. A similar guard was furnished by the 6th Regt. at the Railway Station, and the 88th Regiment⁷ furnished a party for the Telephone Office.⁸ A party of refugees from one of the outlying villages passed the camp under escort during the afternoon, the sight causing a very bitter feeling amongst the men against the Strikers. During the day Capt. Hamber⁹ joined with 19 men who had left Vancouver on Friday night and had been sent to Extension, and at night Capt. Merritt¹⁰ arrived with S.M. [Sergeant-Major] Nelson and 12 men from Vancouver. The men from Extension had been on duty for over 36 hours with very little sleep or food, and were almost worn out.

The 2 Companies 6th D.C.O.R. left early on 18th August to rejoin their own Regiment, H.Q. of which had proceeded to Nanaimo on the 15th. Boat guards were again mounted during the day and a wharf guard was supplied at night by the 72nd. In the afternoon 2 prominent agitators were arrested at the boat while trying to leave Nanaimo and taken to jail under escort. A large crowd witnessed the arrests, and only the display of a strong force prevented trouble. In addition to the boat guard another Company was standing to arms in the lines. This Company had been warned to be in readiness to go to Cumberland where disturbances were reported to have occurred, but the order was cancelled as no confirmation of the reports could be obtained and they were afterwards found to be baseless.

The Boat guard was mounted as usual on the night of Monday 18th August, and while still in position on the wharf the O.C. [Officer Com-

⁷ The 88th Regiment Victoria Fusiliers originated in Victoria in 1912. Commanded by Lt.-Col. J. A. Hall. It was one of the "parent" units of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's).

⁸ Those in charge of both the telegraph and telephone offices were not co-operative with the military and, further, it appears that on several occasions they leaked information to the strikers regarding troop movements. For some days communication between Nanaimo and Cumberland was carried on in Gaelic. The Pipe Major and Quartermaster of the 72nd Regiment both knew this language, and were available at each end of the line when required.

⁹ Captain E. W. Hamber was born and educated in Winnipeg and came to Vancouver to become an executive in his father-in-law's lumber business. Later he became head of a number of large business corporations, was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia (1936-1941), Chancellor of the University of British Columbia (1945-1948) as well as holding numerous other public offices. In 1911 he held the provisional rank of Captain with the 72nd Regiment.

¹⁰ Captain C. M. Merritt. He was killed in action while serving with the 16th Battalion (Canadian Scottish), C.E.F., in 1915. As a matter of interest his son, Lt.-Col. C. C. I. Merritt, was to win the Victoria Cross in the Second World War.

manding] received orders to extend the men along the whole frontage of the camp immediately on return from the wharf. The men were extended to three paces and remained in position for some time as there was a large crowd on the street in front of the camp. Meantime the remainder of the battalion had been moved out by the back of the camp across a vacant lot to surround the Athletic Hall along with the rest of the troops. The movement was carried out very suddenly, the troops parading at a few minutes notice and those from the Railway camp coming down at the double and the meeting of strikers remained quite ignorant of it until Col. Hall went in and addressed them. The 72nd Regt. was on duty mainly on the S. and E. sides of the Hall, while the 6th Regt. lined the street to the Court House. Bayonets were fixed and Rifles loaded. A few men emerged from the Hall while the meeting was in progress and were marched under escort to the Courthouse to be searched, but at the close of the meeting the men were only allowed out in batches of 10 and went by themselves through the lines of the Militia to the back of the Courthouse grounds where they were met by special constables, taken in at the side door, and searched for arms. The average time required for each batch was 1½ minutes, and in all 773 men were arrested.¹¹ None of them made any attempt at resistance, although when the Militia first arrived in the strike area the strikers were in a very ugly mood and made many threats as to their intentions. No arms were found, although a number of Officers and men of the 72nd, posted near the windows, were positive they saw rifles and revolvers being passed from hand to hand inside the hall.

The meeting did not begin to break up till about 11:30 p.m. and as the troops had been on duty for nearly three hours and the night was cold, Col. Hall gave orders for coffee and biscuits to be issued. The coffee was made at the kitchens of the 72nd Regt. and was distributed by men of the boat guard who had been withdrawn from the front of the camp as the crowd assembled there had dispersed and everything was quiet. After the troops had been served an issue was made to the prisoners, most of whom received it thankfully although some were very bitter and refused to touch it.

As the prisoners passed through the hands of the searchers they were sent through the main door of the Court House on to the lawn in front. Two sentries of the 6th Regt. were posted just inside the hedge at the foot of the lawn and a few men of this Regiment formed a straggly line on the sidewalk, but made no attempt to keep this free of civilians. As the number of civilians grew, a detachment of about 40 men of the Permanent Force was sent to take post in the street in front of the Court House, but the men were allowed to fall out, and sat or walked about on the seaward side of the street. These were all the precautions taken against a crowd which in the end was closely packed on the whole lawn in front of the Court House and could, by

¹¹ Although the author gives the impression that these men were "arrested," and writes later about "prisoners," the task of the militia was actually to provide protection for the civil police who were searching all the miners for weapons and who had warrants to arrest *some* of the men they knew were attending the meeting.

a sudden rush, have overwhelmed easily the small force of Militia. Yet they proved quite effective.

As the news of what was going on spread through the town, a number of the strikers' friends and relations gathered in front of the Court House and some of the women were weeping and hysterical. There was no attempt whatever at opposition to the Militia or police except that when the crowd passed the Seaforth's Camp after the release of the prisoners some difficulty was experienced by the guard in keeping the sidewalk in front of the camp clear, which was insisted upon this night for the only time. The last of the strikers did not leave the Athletic Hall until about 2:30 a.m. and a few minutes later all the prisoners at Court House were released except about 40 who were detained on charges of rioting, etc. The troops returned to camp about 3 a.m. after having been continuously on duty for about seven hours.

On Tuesday 19th August reveille was later owing to the work of the night before, but the duties were exceedingly heavy all day, every available Officer and man in camp being employed. In addition to the usual boat guards etc., each Regiment furnished a party of 1 Officer and 20 N.C.Os and men to patrol an allotted district of the town from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Athletic Hall was thoroughly searched by the Engineers and a volunteer working party of the 72nd, but no arms were found. It was afterwards suggested that they might have been conveyed by a secret passage to an old mine tunnel which is known to come very near to the surface close to the Athletic Hall.

This afternoon Capt. Merritt proceeded to Cumberland to relieve Lt. A. D. Wilson, who arrived later in the day with Q.M. McGregor on their way to Vancouver. Messages had been transmitted in Gaelic for some days between P.M. [Pipe Major] Gillies at Nanaimo and Q.M. [Quartermaster] McGregor at Cumberland, suspicion having arisen that both Telegraph and Telephone lines were being tapped by the strikers.

Up to this date and for some days after, the strictest Military precautions were observed at all the camps in Nanaimo. Leave was only given to a few men at a time, and all men leaving camp had to go fully armed with rifle and bayonet; Officers with swords.

H.Q. of the 72nd Regt. with No. 1 Double Company, M.G. [Machine-Gun] Section and a detachment of Canadian Engineers all under Major J. S. Tait, returned to Cumberland on the morning of Wednesday 20th August. No. 1 Double Company was left at Union Bay under Capt. G. H. Kirkpatrick,¹² the remainder reaching Cumberland in the afternoon. A stop was made at Trent River to inspect the bridge, which the strikers had attempted to blow up. As a supply of tents and blankets had now arrived, a camp was laid out under the supervision of the Engineers, and No. 3 Field Company was enabled to leave the school building where the men had been for five nights without blankets or bedding.

¹² Captain G. H. Kirkpatrick was born in Kingston, Ontario, in 1875. A graduate of the Royal Military College, he served in the South African War in 1899-1902. He was one of the original officers in the 72nd Regiment, and served with the Seaforths overseas, becoming that battalion's Commanding Officer in 1918, and its first C.O. in the post-war period.

After the departure of the main body on Sunday the 17th inst., the O.C. at Cumberland had a rather anxious time. Large numbers of men were on the streets on Sunday night and the troops were confined strictly to barracks in anticipation of any possible outbreak. On the night of Monday, 18th August a report was received that a meeting of Strikers was being held at Union Bay and trouble was expected. Lt. Goodall¹³ and 20 men were despatched by special train and reached Union Bay about 11:30 p.m. It was found that the meeting had by this time dispersed, and the return was made without the men having to leave the railway carriages. Some of them fell asleep on leaving Cumberland and did not waken until their return there. So quietly was the whole operation carried out that few people in Cumberland knew the troops had moved at all, but had any trouble occurred while the detachment was absent at Union Bay the force at Cumberland would have been dangerously weak. An amusing stratagem was resorted to during the absence of H.Q. from Cumberland. The machine gun had a great morale effect on the Strikers, and although the gun accompanied the main body to Nanaimo the horse was left behind. It was taken out daily for exercise, and it was found afterwards that the Strikers believed the gun was still in Cumberland.

The A.S.C. [Army Service Corps] detachment proceeded to Nanaimo on Thursday 21st August, the garrison at Cumberland then consisted of H.Q. No. 3 Double Co. and M.G. section 72nd Regt., and details of C.E. and C.A.M.C. No. 3 Double Co. had been drilling regularly during the absence of H.Q. in Nanaimo, and on Thursday 21st inst., a regular camp routine was established, no actual strike duty being required in the village. Reveille was at 6 a.m. and morning parade 6:30-7:15. A parade of 2-2½ hours duration was held in the forenoon — usually in shirt sleeves owing to the warmth of the weather — and after dinner the men were free for the rest of the day. Only 50% were however permitted to be absent from camp in the afternoon, and 25% in the evening. There was no morning parade on the 21st however, as the fire alarm was sounded just as reveille was being played. The detachment was turned out in remarkably quick time, and threw a cordon round the scene of the outbreak, which was quickly subdued.

The laying out of the camp was completed by the Engineers building an ablution place and shower bath and installing a telephone between the Officers quarters and the guard tent. Great pains were taken by the men to make the camp look neat, lines of whitewashed stones being laid round the outside of the camp and the cook houses, and a flag staff being erected near the guard tent, on which the Union Jack was raised and lowered daily.

Besides ordinary drill, advantage was taken of the presence of the Engineers to carry out instructional work not usually possible at ordinary Militia Training camps. Different types of shelter trenches were laid out and a single lock bridge built over a small ravine near the railway station.

On Sunday 24th August a church parade was held, and on Tuesday 26th August a visit was paid to the camp by a party of Officers and men from

¹³ Lieutenant S. H. Goodall. He went overseas with the 16th Battalion (Canadian Scottish), C.E.F. in the First Contingent and was killed in action in 1916.

H.M.D. "Shearwater", then lying at Comox. Advantage was taken of this opportunity to make a further display of force. The sailors were detrained about half a mile from the town and a party of about 25 of all ranks together with the machine gun detachment, was sent out to escort them. The whole party then marched through the town with pipes playing, fixed bayonets, etc. The sailors were unarmed, however, and arrangements were made for a stronger armed party from the ship to march up next week. Owing to the withdrawal of the Militia, however, this arrangement fell through. On this day also, part of No. 1 Double Co. was moved from Union Bay to Cumberland.

On Wednesday 27th August a detachment from Cumberland went to Union Bay to relieve No. 1 Double Co., who were now all brought to Cumberland to get the advantage of the training facilities there. Owing to the want of any suitable ground, it was almost impossible to carry out instruction at Union Bay, and the Quarters for the troops were not satisfactory, being a small hall abutting directly on the main street. The men were fed in detachments at the two hotels in the town. The work consisted mainly of furnishing picquets on the arrival of passenger boats at the Company's wharf, the Government Wharf having been declared closed, and guarding the coal bunkers and tipples at night. Owing to the extent of the ground to be covered and the darkness around the high trestles, the duty was a trying one for all ranks.

The movements of troops on 26th and 27th inst. had the effect of still further mystifying the civilian population as to the strength and disposition of the forces, and even a Victoria newspaper telephoned up to make enquiries as to what was going on.

On the afternoon of Thursday 28th August a staff officer arrived by motor from Nanaimo with orders for the withdrawal of the Militia, and on Friday Major Tait proceeded to Vancouver with H.Q. and the main body of the Battalion. About 50 of all ranks were left at Cumberland under Capt. Rae, and a similar number at Nanaimo under Lt. Kemp.¹⁴ On Saturday 30th August, a detachment of the permanent force arrived, and that night the 72nd Regt. evacuated Cumberland after having been in continuous occupation for 15 days.

The half battalion left at Nanaimo while H.Q. was at Cumberland — Nos. 2 and 4 Double Cos. under Capt. J. E. Leckie,¹⁵ D.S.O., was employed mainly on picquet and escorts to prisoners. Owing to the number of escorts and the distance to be travelled from the Court House to the Jail, from the Jail to the Railway Station, etc., the duties were very heavy and once or twice even the cooks had to be taken for duty. The boat picquets and night

¹⁴ Another one of the original officers when the 72nd Regiment was formed, Lieutenant W. F. Kemp went overseas with the 16th Battalion (Canadian Scottish) C.E.F. He was later awarded the D.S.O. and promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in 1917.

¹⁵ Captain J. E. Leckie, D.S.O., was born in 1872 in Acton Vale, Quebec. A graduate of R.M.C., he came to British Columbia in 1897 and after distinguished service in the Boer War, moved to Vancouver where he became one of the founders of the 72nd Regiment. He served overseas on the Western Front and later in Russia, finishing his active military career as a Colonel.

wharf guards continued to be supplied as usual, and among those refused admittance by the night wharf guard, was a Dominion Cabinet Minister,¹⁶ who was held up and taken to the guard room while going to the boat late one night.

On the arrival of the Cumberland detachment at Nanaimo on the morning of Sunday 31st August, a provisional company of 50 men was formed from the two detachments for permanent duty, the Officers for the first week being Capt. Rae, Lieuts. Goodall and Tupper.¹⁷ The remainder returned to Vancouver. The Camp opposite the Post Office continued to be occupied by the 72nd Regt., until about the middle of October, when the troops were moved into the Agricultural Hall, which was fitted up as a barracks.

APPRECIATION

1. *Efficiency.* The chief difficulty experienced at first was the ignorance of ordinary Military routine in the case of both Officers and N.C.Os who had little or no experience of soldiering previous to joining the 72nd, e.g., want of knowledge of the duties of the orderly officer, orderly sergeant and corporal, etc. In particular, the majority had only the vaguest notion of the duties of guards and sentries, and as most of the work for the first few days consisted of guards and picquets, the question was rather a serious one. A number of N.C.Os, especially lance corporals (as might perhaps be expected), failed to exert their authority properly at the beginning, and had to be warned of the extreme importance of making the meaning of their positions properly understood. In fact, [but] for the stiffening which this Regiment fortunately possesses of men with previous service, the difficulties of performing the work required to begin with [in] a proper military manner, would have been considerable.

The impossibility of giving any clear understanding of the real meaning of military discipline to men who only attend a few drills in the year, was clearly shown. It is perhaps unfair to expect too much of a Regiment so recently formed as the 72nd, but apparently the two successive field trainings carried out by the Regiment had left a number of all ranks in ignorance of many elementary points, although it must be remembered that less than 50% of the Regiment has attended each camp.

It would appear, therefore, in view of the short period in camp required of city Regiments in Canada at the present time, that the strictest discipline should be preserved at all camps, and the maintenance of a full regular routine rigidly insisted on. For this purpose, keeping in view the probable small strength of companies, camp duties should be made heavy rather than light,

¹⁶ This was the Honourable Thomas W. Crothers, Minister of Labour from 1911 to 1918 in Borden's Conservative government. He had been in Nanaimo attempting to bring about a settlement of the strike.

¹⁷ Lieutenant R. H. Tupper. He had been with the 72nd Regiment for a year. Later he served overseas with the 16th Battalion (Canadian Scottish) C.E.F., was wounded and invalided back to Canada in 1915. Promoted to major, he assumed command of the 72nd Regiment in Vancouver from 1916 until 1919.

so that as many of all ranks as possible may be conversant with them. In particular, a regimental quarter guard should invariably be maintained. The guard forms a centre for the whole camp, and through it the recruit can learn the routine most easily, e.g., by the sounding of the proper bugle calls by the bugler or guard, the reporting of men on pass to the sergeant of the guard, the duties of sentries, etc. Non-commissioned Officers and also junior officers must also be thoroughly instructed in the importance of their respective duties as without a proper exercise of authority by all ranks, from the highest to the lowest, there can be no discipline.

Men go to camp expecting to work hard, and the most frequent complaint heard with reference to the camp at Sidney [in] 1913, was that it was a waste of time as so little real work was done.

It is only fair to say, however, that once the position was realized, the greatest keenness was shown by all ranks to learn their various duties: for instance N.C.Os and men frequently volunteered for guard in order to learn the work thoroughly. During the whole time the battalion was on duty the spirit of the men was admirable. A great deal of hard work had to be done, often under very uncomfortable conditions — No. 3 Field Co., at Cumberland, was without blankets or bedding for five nights — and the men found themselves in circumstances to which most of them were totally unaccustomed, but not a word of complaint was heard. Although one or two minor offences had to be dealt with, there was no case of a serious breach of discipline, and the offences which did occur were in all cases due more to the ignorance of men who were brought for the first time under strict military discipline, than to any intentional misbehaviour on their part.

2. *Equipment.* The greatest inconvenience was felt at first in having no kind of mobilisation equipment in possession of the Regiment and instantly available when required. It was several days until supplies could be obtained from District Headquarters, and in the meantime a good deal of unnecessary discomfort had to be endured. Further, considerable expense to the Government was incurred by the necessity of purchasing all the cooking utensils, etc., required, as at Cumberland.

The 72nd are additionally unfortunate in possessing only a purely make-shift equipment at the present time. It does not conduce to efficiency to have what equipment there is attached by odd straps or even pieces of string to a buff leather full-dress waist belt which has no provision of any kind for the attachment of other articles to it. In addition, it was noticed that some men were short Mess Tins, others Haversacks, water bottles, etc. but the responsibility for this must, of course, rest with the Company Commanders concerned.

As pointed out by a previous officer commanding the Canadian Militia, the Boots worn by many of the men were of such a character that they proved quite unserviceable after a few days and had to be replaced. This, of course, is a very serious factor as regards efficiency, and it is a question whether an effort might not be made to provide each man going to camp with a pair of shoes of Army Pattern annually, as is done in the Territorial Force in Great Britain.

3. *Transport and Supply.* From the nature of the country and the fact that the Troops were all stationed in towns and villages, the necessary food, forage and articles required to make up deficiencies in equipment were easily obtainable. On the arrival of the A.S.C. in Nanaimo the supply of all troops in that district was taken over by them. Communications by sea, road and rail were excellent, and the question of transport hardly arose at all, except that the A.S.C. sent convoys daily with supplies to S. Wellington and Extension.

The allowance of 50¢ per man per day for rations proved amply sufficient when properly administered. At Cumberland, although the details of the Government rations were not strictly adhered to, the food supplied was of the best, and even old soldiers declared they had never had better rations.

4. *Relations with Civil Population.* The immense importance of moral effect in circumstances of this kind was clearly established. The sight of the machine guns and ball ammunition carried by the various units had an immense effect on the Civil Population. This was remarked both at Cumberland and in the case of the gun mounted on the railway train patrolling between Nanaimo and S. Wellington. At Nanaimo to begin with, no man was allowed to enter the town even for a few minutes on leave without rifle or bayonet, while all Officers carried swords. The display of Arms in this fashion, together with the sight of Picquets frequently marching through the town with fixed bayonets, went a long way towards preventing any attack on isolated Militiamen. It has to be borne in mind that at no point was actual martial law declared, and the desirability of avoiding extreme measures if at all possible, made it necessary to make the very most of what was a comparatively small force, considering the wide district to be covered.

It is satisfactory to note that the men behaved with the greatest restraint towards the Strikers and their sympathisers. In very few cases did they come into actual conflict with any Civilians, and fortunately in no case was there any occasion to fire.

5. *Effect on Civil Population.* As to the effect on the general relations between the Militia and the Civil Population, it is as yet perhaps too early to speak definitely. A good deal of hostility was shown by the crowd when the first detachment left Vancouver, but there was none when the Regiments returned. Of course, the enmity of the labour unions has been very greatly increased, and several men have had to choose between leaving the Militia or leaving the Union, and also their employment. It is satisfactory that in very few cases did men suffer in respect of their employment through being away, while in some cases, employers paid their men for the whole time of their absence.

The civil population, particularly in the affected districts, have certainly been made to realise that the Militia is a force to be reckoned with. The loud threats of the strikers which were noticeable, even after the arrival of the first body of troops, died away very suddenly as the successive reinforcements appeared.

6. *Effect on Militia Units Employed.* There can be no question as to the value of the whole experience in regard to the efficiency of all the units employed. Physically, the change was marked. Many of the men put on flesh, and as a result of the open-air life and the exercise, all ranks returned bronzed and healthy looking, and much more fit than when they set out. In addition, all ranks gained a Military knowledge which will be most useful should they ever go on service again. After the first week there was very little difficulty in having the ordinary regimental routine carried out properly, and most of the men began to have a very much better understanding of the real meaning of discipline.

The 72nd Regt. had also to act independently and organise everything from the beginning at Cumberland. No information as to the state of affairs was given before leaving Vancouver, and all action had to be taken on information obtained by the troops themselves after arrival on the ground.

The only baggage carried by the Regiment in addition to the machine gun was a large supply of ball ammunition, and the kit-bags, filled with whatever the men chose to put in them. All arrangements as to maintenance and supplies had to be carried out regimentally, and means improvised on the spot to deal with any contingencies which might arise. It was remarked that regular soldiers, in the absence of practically everything to which they are ordinarily accustomed, might not have adapted themselves to the circumstances as quickly as the Militia, and to the fact that men as a rule have to depend very much on themselves in this country, may perhaps be attributed the comparative ease with which the Militia settled down to surroundings entirely novel to the great majority.

It was particularly observed that as the men found themselves able to do the work expected of them, and also as they compared themselves with the Strikers, many of whom were foreigners, their self-confidence was considerably increased, while the close association of all ranks for an extended period when serious work had to be done, made the Regiment feel much more of a unit than is possible when officers and men are living scattered over a wide area and only come together occasionally during the year for a few hours at a time.

It may fairly be claimed that the marked improvement in Military efficiency obtained as a result of the test of the first real work the Militia of this district have been called on to do, should enable them to give a good account of themselves should they ever be called on to the field again.