

Department under Captain Bythell, Royal Engineers.

The services of the two Pioneer regiments under Lieutenant-Colonels Gordon and Wilson have also been of a most valuable character, while every regiment in the force has contributed, in the shape of working parties, its quota to the opening out of this mountainous and difficult country by the construction of practicable roads.

11. The administration of the Commissariat-Transport Department could not have been so successfully conducted as it was, had it not been for the careful supervision exercised over all details both before and after the commencement of the campaign by the Commissary-General-in-Chief, Major-General Badcock, C.B., C.S.I., and the late Commissary-General, Punjab Command, Colonel R. Patch; and His Excellency desires me to bring the services of these officers, as well as of those of that Department named by the General Officer Commanding the Force, to the favourable notice of Government.

The transport trains maintained by the Maharajahs of Gwalior and Jeypore, respectively, as part of their quota of Imperial Service troops, have proved of the highest value. The efficiency manifested during a continuous strain could not, I am to observe, have been kept up without the closest attention to every detail in time of peace, and Sir George White cordially endorses the commendatory remarks made in paragraph 8 of the Despatch on Captain H. R. Tate, 15th Bengal Lancers, Captain J. B. Edwards, Central India Horse, and the native subordinates who have done such admirable work under the supervision of those officers.

12. To the careful medical arrangements and to increased sanitary precautions may be ascribed, in Sir George White's opinion, the comparative immunity from disease and the general good health that the troops have enjoyed under very trying conditions. These results could not have been attained without the great forethought and administrative experience of the late Principal Medical Officer, Her Majesty's Forces in India, Surgeon-Major-General Bradshaw, C.B., and of the officer now filling that appointment, Surgeon-Major-General A. A. Gore; and their efforts have been well seconded by Surgeon-Colonel T. Maunsell, Principal Medical Officer with the Force, and the medical officers under his orders.

13. The Veterinary Department, under Veterinary-Lieutenant-Colonel Poyser, Army Veterinary Department, has not only contributed greatly to the efficiency of the transport animals, but has diminished in great measure the heavy mortality that was a marked feature of former campaigns.

14. The Commander-in-Chief endorses the opinion expressed by Sir Robert Low in his paragraph 12 on the valuable services rendered by the officers of the Intelligence Branch.

15. The efficiency of the Army Signalling Staff, under Captain T. E. O'Leary, Royal Irish Fusiliers, has been thoroughly tested during the campaign, and has again proved the great utility of heliograph and flag signalling in the rapid transmission of intelligence and of orders in the field.

16. The services rendered by Major H. A. Deane and his political assistants have no doubt been fully appreciated by the Government of India in the Foreign Department; but Sir George White cannot permit this despatch to go forward without expressing his opinion of the valuable work done by this body of officers, and endorsing the recommendations made by Sir Robert Low on behalf of the Chief Political Officer.

17. I am specially to bring to notice the excellent work done by Colonel Boughey, the Manager of the North-Western Railway, and the officers and staff serving under him. Colonel Boughey has met all the demands of the military authorities to the Commander-in-Chief's entire satisfaction. The concentration of the troops was carried out without a hitch, and the resources of the railway made possible the sudden and unexpected nature of the movement against the tribes.

18. In all the previous despatches that His Excellency has written to the Government of India on former campaigns, it has been an agreeable duty to him to dwell upon the admirable organisation of, and the excellent services rendered by, the Telegraph Department. This expedition gives him yet another opportunity of commending the enterprise with which the telegraph line was so rapidly carried forward with the advance, in the face of all difficulties, under the able and indefatigable direction of Mr. F. E. Dempster, whose services merit the Commander-in-Chief's cordial acknowledgments, and are now brought to the favourable notice of Government. His Excellency here takes the opportunity of expressing his acknowledgments to Mr. C. H. Reynolds, Director-General of Telegraphs, for the ready response he has always made to all military demands upon the Department, and especially in the matter of facilitating the establishment of direct communication between Army Head-Quarters and the General Officer Commanding in the field.

19. His Excellency also commends to the favourable notice of Government the good work done by the Postal Department under Mr. A. F. Ryan, Chief Postal Officer with the Force.

No. 1174-A, "Field Operations," dated Laram Pass, 27th July, 1895, from Lieutenant-General Sir Robert C. Low, K.C.B., Commanding the Chitral Relief Force, to the Adjutant-General in India.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report in continuation of my No. 296-A of the 1st May last.

1. After the capture of Sher Afzal the troops were halted, and it was a question as to whether it was desirable to move up to the Chitral Fort. The British Agent there advised that the troops should not advance, on the ground that the valley, already devastated by Umra Khan, could not give supplies.

2. The Government of India, however, decided that British troops should be shown at Chitral.

Brigadier-General Gatacre, D.S.C., Commanding the 3rd Brigade, was ordered to move on the three marches from Ashreth to Chitral.

He found the track up the Kunar River quite as bad as, if not worse than, the defiles on each side of the Lowarai Pass, and, as before, the track had to be made passable by the skill of engineer officers and sappers and by the willing labour of the troops.

3. During the first week of May I was detained at Dir. The Khan of Dir at this time wanted our constant support. He had, by capturing Sher Afzal and handing him over to me, done good service and simplified the political situation at Chitral, but the duty was a very unpleasant one for him, and he incurred a great deal of unpopularity amongst the people of his own country, in which he was not yet firmly established as ruler.

4. It is only right that I should here record the military services of the Khan of Dir during the