

owns horses. The cavalry are fearless and expert horsemen, generally cowboys and ranchmen who ride their own horses, of all nationalities but largely English of good families but very western and ~~unconventional~~ unconventional in their manners, yet orderly and eager to be properly instructed. The ground on the open uncultivated prairie here and to the southward is full of gopher and badger holes which would be very dangerous for an eastern horse but the animals here are wonderfully sure footed and clever in avoiding them and seldom step in one either by day or night. The prairie is splendidly adapted for the evolutions of ~~horsemen~~ horsemen and these men move at a pace which is exhilarating to witness and mount and dismount with a rapidity

MILITIA AND DEFENCE,  
CANADA.

Calgary, 11th July, 1909.

Dear Sister.

On my return yesterday from the south country at Macleod and Medicine Hat, I found your letter of the 1st awaiting me with the enclosed express order for thirty dollars to apply on the note. I had been absent a week and your letter had been here several days before my return, hence the delay in acknowledging it. I am sorry to hear so bad an account of the crop prospects at home. The weather here has also been rather cold and fairly wet, but has helped rather than injured the grain except in a few localities where there has been some hail. I have been very well since I have been here and have now seen a good deal of the Province from the railroad. I have been twice at Edmonton 200 miles north of this. It is growing quite as rapidly as Calgary and

must have a population of about 25,000 while  
Strathcona immediately across the river has  
about 5,000. After <sup>going</sup> north about 50 miles the  
bare prairie ends and much of the uncultivate  
<sup>land</sup> is covered with shrubs and small trees. It  
resembles the pleasanter parts of Ontario  
very much with similar farm buildings. There  
is not much ranching in that part of the pro-  
vince which is divided into homesteads and  
the inhabitants are engaged mostly in mixed  
farming and seem quite prosperous. There are  
a good many people from Ontario and the Mari-  
time Provinces, a good many from the Western  
States as far south as Kansas and Missouri  
and a considerable number of Germans and  
Scandinavians. I stopped over at Red Deer and  
Wetaskiwin, two delightful towns of about  
3,000 inhabitants to inspect the cadets.

Macleod is 108 miles due south and Med-

icine Hat 180 miles south east of this place  
and the country round about them was and still  
is largely used for ranching but is now being  
divided into farms and selling at high prices  
when favorably located sometimes as high as  
\$30 to \$40 per acre. All the towns and villages  
near the railway seem to be growing rapidly;  
indeed most of the houses look very new and  
so do the farmhouses. Official statistics show  
that the population has increased by 100,000  
during the last twelve months. Lethbridge a  
coal mining town of about 10,000 has grown  
very fast.

I have superintended four small cavalry  
camps at Edmonton, Calgary, Macleod, and Medicine  
Hat and shall go to Edmonton in about a week  
to inspect an infantry regiment and to Leth-  
bridge to see a battery of horse artillery.  
Everybody rides here and nearly everybody

MILITIA AND DEFENCE,  
CANADA.

which can only be acquired by much practice. They are ~~not~~ usually good shots and clever at scouting and concealing themselves and their horses in the coulees and hollows. I have been on horseback and in <sup>the</sup> open practically all day long since the 15th of July and it has been a very interesting experience. My good friend General Otter spent about a week in the province and seemed much pleased with what he saw. The days are very long at this time of the year, particularly at Edmonton where it was scarcely dark on a fair night at 10.30 P.M. and it is daylight again at 2.30. At Macleod and Medicine Hat there are several ~~varieties~~ varieties of cactus which grow wild on the prairie and give it a tropical look and a multitude of other brilliant red blue and yellow prairie flowers whose names I was unable to

ascertain. The grass at present is very green  
and <sup>spangled</sup> ~~spangled~~ with these bright colors is very  
pretty. The air is very dry and I do not think  
either the heat or cold is felt so much in  
consequence. I have not yet been nearer the  
peaks of the Rockies than this place which is  
about 80 miles from Banff so I cannot say  
much about them except that they are a strik-  
ing feature upon the horizon especially at  
sunset on a clear night. Sunset is generally  
very beautiful here wherever you may be.

Julia, I think, likes it pretty well. She  
has had many callers and a good many invita-  
tions out, and on the whole has been pretty  
well. Still, I doubt whether she would like to  
feel that she was condemned to live here all  
her life, nor indeed would I. Possibly in two  
or three years, I may be transferred to some

other part of the country where there are ~~xxx~~  
more trees and less wind. Still there ~~x~~ is a  
fascination and exhilaration in galloping  
over the prairie.

Do not worry about paying the balance of  
your note. I do not need the money at present.  
I hope you are all well. Julia joins me in  
love to everybody.

I hope you will write whenever you find  
time and inclination. It still seems strange  
to me that I should be here, so far away and  
leading such a different life from the past.

Ever sincerely

Your affectionate brother

*J. A. Crisp*