

The night was fearfully cold, the thermometer at sunrise was 23 deg. below zero, and the tent pegs had to be cut out of the ground with axes. On the following day 18 miles was marched, and on the 9th 21 miles, on the 10th 23 miles, 11th 19 miles, 12th 20 miles, 13th 22 miles, 15th 23 miles, 16th 17 miles, in the face of a regular blizzard of wind and hail. These marches are very wonderful, for they were made by men untrained to military life, and often over roads covered with slush of snow and mud. While, of course, the members of this institute must be interested in the really great endurance of our volunteer militia during that eventful campaign, I believe they will be still more interested in the work which was done by one of our city battalions, the 65th, of which our esteemed president, Major Labelle, was then, and is now, an officer. I believe that that regiment had the honor of penetrating further to the north of that Northwest country than had previously any white man. They also made some remarkable marches, marches which will go down in history, and which prove the hardy character of the Canadian race. I have been furnished by my friend, Lieut.-Col. Prevost, then commanding a company in that battalion, now its respected commander, with a brief description of some of the tramps which it made. Writing to me he says: "Our first march, which I always looked upon as a very injudicious one, on account of the conditions under which it was made. After several days and nights of rail in ordinary second class cars we were landed on Lake Superior, and marched from 22 to 25 miles on ice, covered with slush, carrying arms, accoutrements, ammunition and full kit. At mid-distance hard tack and cheese was served. After a good deal of pressure the men were relieved of knapsacks and haversacks for the balance of the march, which was completed in less than ten hours, a pretty fair record for green soldiers under such difficulties. The second march was from Michipicoten across Thunder Bay to Red Rock, eleven miles, starting at 9 o'clock at night, after traveling all day in cars and sleighs. A hundred and fifty miles was also made in one day—14 miles on foot, 22 in sleighs, and the balance on platform cars, not easy riding, as the road was built on snow. The distance from Calgary to Edmonton—about 220 miles—was marched in 10½ days, an average of about 13 miles a day, and should be looked upon as good work, as the trail was bad—rivers had to be forded or bridged—our baggage, provision and ammunition waggons having very often to be pulled out of swamps, thus occasioning much delay. Our longest march during those ten days was 35 miles. This was done on the ninth day; the men by this time were getting in trim. On the 4th of June 25 miles was marched, over very bad roads, having to go through several swamps. The last march

of the campaign in which we were engaged was made on the 24th of June, when 45 miles was covered. Had it not been that the men got little or no time to cure their sore feet, even better records might have been made. What I always found a great help on the march was placing a few singers in front, who by lively songs made us forget the tediousness of the march. We seldom entered a camp at night without singing." Being at Aldershot, as I have already mentioned, in September, 1885, I had an opportunity of talking over the Northwest campaign with many officers, among them Col. Robinson, of the Rifle Brigade, who is a Canadian, and was adjutant-general of the camp. Others had served in Canada, and the universal opinion was that in that campaign the Canadian militia had proved itself to be composed of men capable of doing work, and enduring hardship, which could not be excelled by any soldiers in the world.

ACTUAL SERVICE IN WAR.

BIVOUACS.

Napoleon preferred the bivouac to tents for men, and there can be no doubt that in fine weather and a waterproof sheet, and especially in a wooden country where fires can be easily maintained, it is quite healthy. The rubber sheet is, in my opinion, a necessity, for the ground cools rapidly during the night and abstracts heat from the body. Tents not being used adds greatly to the mobility of an army. Wolseley says that Englishmen rather shudder at the notion of life without any protection from wind, rain and dews, but adds, "after the first few days' experience most soldiers like it." In Europe it is quite certain that armies when moving cannot have tents; they must either be billeted in the towns or villages or bivouac. In selecting a site for a bivouac, wood and water, as for camps, are the great requisites. Wood is, however, the most essential, for it is robbed of half its enjoyment unless the men can have a fire to sleep near. This is all the more essential if the nights are cold. In cold weather woods are the warmest place for a bivouac. In warm weather or in tropical countries it is pleasanter to bivouac in the open. In selecting a site for a bivouac, if in a hilly or undulating country it must be remembered that the actual cold is greater in the valley than on the side of the hill; half way up a slope is generally the best site for comfort as well as for military reasons—it screens from the observation of the enemy. Cavalrymen should sleep in front of their horses. Infantry should pile arms and sleep as they stand in the ranks, officers in both instances sleeping on the reverse flank. Artillery should always bivouac in line, the men sleeping opposite to their horses. If the enemy is so far distant as to preclude the possibility of a night attack, all horses should be unsaddled and unharnessed, the saddlery, harness, arms, helmets, accoutrements and kits of mounted

corps being placed in front of each horse as he stands at the picket ropes. Infantry should hang their helmets and accoutrements on their rifles as they stand filed, but each man ought to retain his water bottle, haversack and valise. When in the immediate presence of an enemy, or when it is necessary to begin an attack early next morning, the men must remain accoutred and the horses saddled and harnessed. The men with horses must sleep as best they can, taking it in turns to lie down, whilst the comrade holds the two horses. A few logs of wood, sods of grass or turf, or stones piled to windward afford good protection and add greatly to comfort. In the event of war in this country, and there is time, a backwoodsman's shelter can be made by driving into the ground forked sticks and resting a pole between them. Branches should then be laid against it to the windward side, being placed with the thick end uppermost, the leaves being, as it were, upside down; they will throw off the rain better if placed in that way. With a good fire at one's feet, such lean-tos are exceedingly comfortable places to sleep in, as I am sure some of my audience can testify. Too much attention cannot be paid to making the sleeping places as comfortable as possible. Unless men get good, refreshing sleep they cannot sustain continued work. On waking in the morning a smart run will make the blood circulate and remove stiff limbs. It is better than to crouch over a fire. The great object of officers should be to keep those committed to their charge in good health. Without it nothing can be accomplished. Change the position of camps or tents as frequently as possible. If the man is not well fed it will soon tell on his disposition and his temper. See that the men have something to eat and drink before beginning work, no matter how early. Try and get the rations varied as much as possible, and lose no opportunity of getting vegetables for them. When possible get the men hot meals. If preserved or cooked rations have been served they should be warmed or made into soup or bouilli before being eaten. This is a matter of great importance after a long march or a day of hard fighting. Save your men when you can, as you would your horse. They will be all the more fitted for a great effort when you require them to make it. Wolseley says: "We are prone to regard our soldiers as machines, requiring merely a certain amount of bread and beef, washed down by a gill of rum, to keep them not only in motion, but in perfect order. We are only now awakening to the necessity of developing their moral qualities. A man without hope makes an indifferent soldier; but one without good spirits and cheerfulness is worse than useless. Strive by all possible means to develop—to create if necessary—the high moral qualities of human nature in those serving with you. The