

No. 41.—LIEUT.-COL. CASAULT, D. A. G.

In former issues we gave the portraits of Col. Wolseley, commanding the Red River expedition, and of Lieut.-Col. Jarvis, who is at the head of the Ontario Battalion. This week we give a portrait of Lieut.-Col. Casault, D. A. G., who is in command of the Quebec Battalion of the same force. We should have mentioned that Col. Jarvis is a native of Upper Canada, son of the late Col. S. P. Jarvis, of Toronto, though he, like Col. Casault, had served in the British Army before his appointment to the Canadian Volunteer Militia force. Lieut.-Col. Louis Adolphe Casault is a native of Lower Canada, having been born at Montmagny in 1833. His family is one of some note in Canada, and descended from an old French family originally of Grandville, in Normandy. His brother, who died in 1862, Very Rev. L. J. Casault, was the founder, or at least the first Rector of Laval University, and another brother, L. E. N. Casault, Esq., L. L. D., Q. C., who is well known as member of the House of Commons for the county of Bellechasse, has recently been appointed a Judge of the Superior Court for the district of Kamouraska. Lieut.-Col. Casault was educated at the Quebec Seminary and the college of St. Amos. He displayed an early taste for military life, having volunteered into the French Foreign Legion at the breaking out of the Crimean war. He served with honour through the campaign, having been present at most of the principal engagements, and of course took part in the great siege and final capture of Sebastopol. For this service he received a medal. In the early part of 1858 he joined the 100th or Prince of Wales Royal Canadian Regiment, with the rank of Lieutenant; and was afterwards appointed Adjutant. During this service he was considered a very efficient officer, and a strict disciplinarian. On the return of the 100th to Canada, in fact, before Adjutant Casault's arrival in this country, he was gazetted Brigade-Major of Volunteers, and accordingly relinquished his position in the regular service to take command of one of the districts into which Canada was then divided for volunteer and militia purposes. His appointment to this office dates from Nov. 30, 1866, when he received the rank of Lieut.-Col. of volunteers. The new militia law changed the title of Brigade-Major to that of Deputy-Adjutant-General, but the duties remain the same, and Lieut.-Col. Casault continued in command of "military district No. 7," with headquarters at Quebec. His re-appointment under the new act took place on the 23rd December, 1868.

The appointment of Col. Casault to the command of the Quebec contingent of the Red River expedition is in perfect keeping with the general policy of the Government. The

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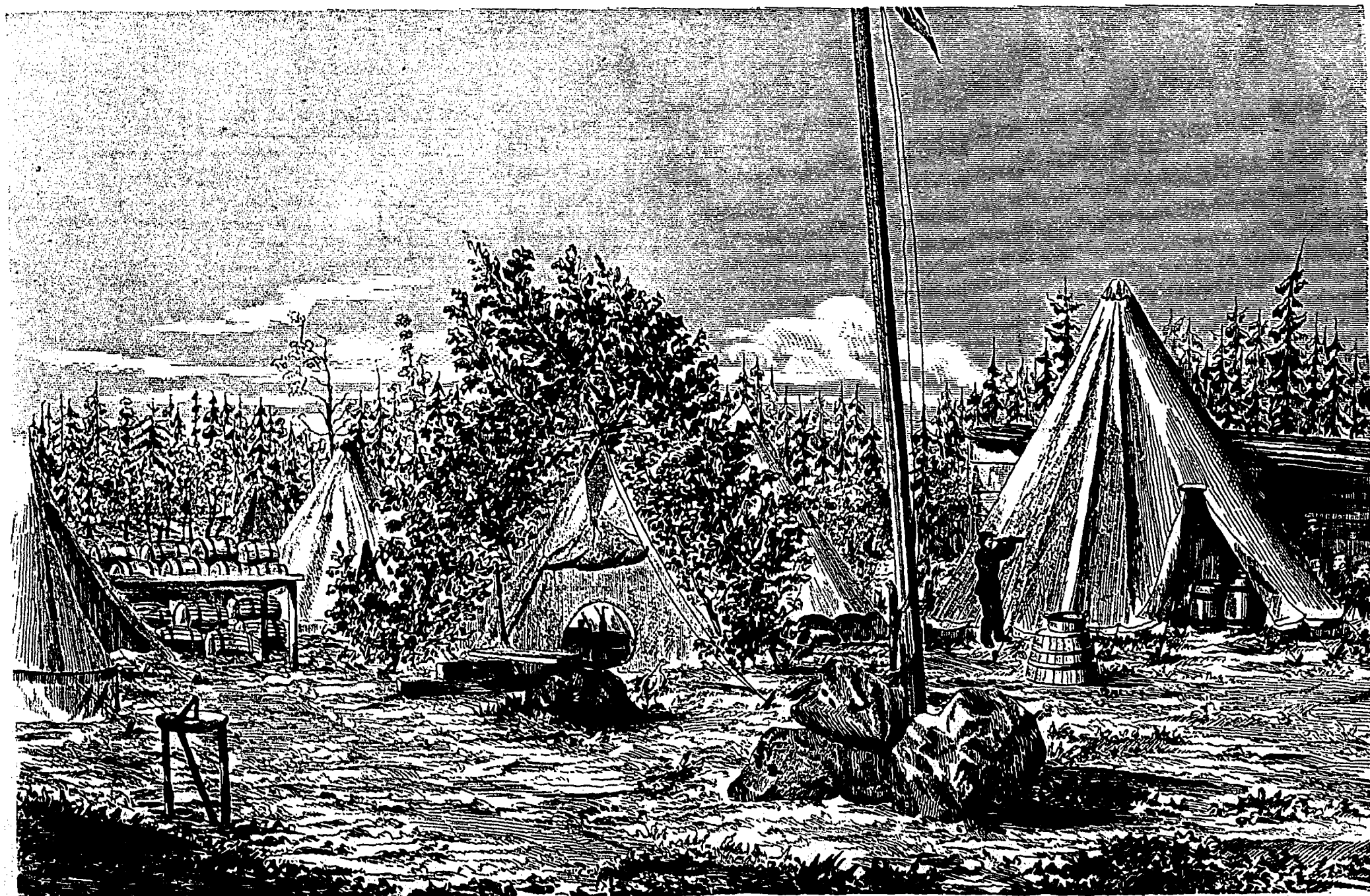


LT.-COL. CASAULT.—From a photograph by Notman.

command of the Ontario Battalion was given to an Upper Canadian of good family and considerable military experience in the regular army; so with respect to the Quebec Battalion, a native of the Province was put at its head; one who had seen service in the Crimea, who had held an honourable position in the 100th Regiment, and who was, consequently, from acknowledged military skill and experience, quite capable of discharging the responsible duties imposed on him. With such an experienced leader as Col. Wolseley at their head, and with such officers second in command as Lieut.-Cols. Casault and Jarvis, Canada may well have confidence that the expedition she has sent forth on a mission of peace to the Red River will acquit itself to the credit of the country in the face of all contingencies. Fortunately there is no longer any doubt as to the duties to be performed by the Expedition. It will

not have to crush a rebellion, nor even to fire a shot. Its whole duty will be to assert, by its presence, the majesty of British law; to guarantee peace and protection to the settlers already in the country, and to see that the new comers receive a hospitable reception. Already it is stated that the Indians, the half-breeds, and the European settlers are preparing to give a cordial welcome to the new Lieut.-Governor and the military expedition; and even President Riel has signified his gracious intention to give Her Majesty's representative the entire control of a government which, in all probability, he dares no longer to administer. The formation of the Quebec Battalion gave some offence to a few parties in Lower Canada, who, not looking below the surface, thought they saw in that act an attempt to force the French Canadians into a war with their own brethren. Events have already dispelled that illusion. Those of the volunteers who go to the Red River country on the Expedition may be simply regarded as the pioneers of the Canadian immigration, certain, in future years, to pour into the North-West; and the Province of Quebec would only be untrue to itself did it not take a share in the work of colonising these fertile regions which, a few generations hence, may become the chief strength and centre of population in the Dominion. It is as the forerunner of immigration to the territory, rather than in the light of a movement hostile to the settlers, that the Red River expedition ought to be viewed; and in this light it would have been a very serious mistake on the part of the Government to have excluded the French Canadians from taking their full share in it. No doubt these considerations influenced the Privy Council, and especially the Minister of Militia, who, by his particular office in the Cabinet, is especially responsible for the Expedition, and by his political position in the country, is the acknowledged leader of the French Canadians. The selection of Lieut.-Col. Casault to fill his present important command was, therefore, doubtless made because of his previously acquired military experience, and of the reasonable anticipation that, under his command, the Quebec contingent would prove themselves worthy and honourable companions-in-arms to their fellow volunteers from Ontario, and the soldiers of Her Majesty's army who form part of the Expedition.

The Winnipeg *New Nation* of the 8th says:—"Grasshoppers have appeared in many parts of the settlement, they almost cover the face of the earth, and have in an incredibly short time left nothing behind them but blackness and desolation, and it is impossible to foretell the extent of the damage they may yet cause."



RED RIVER EXPEDITION—COL. WOLSELEY'S TENT AT THUNDER BAY. From a sketch by our special Artist.—SEE PAGE 66.