

should, at this particular season, take the form of *fêtes champêtres*, which could be participated in at small expense by the mothers, wives, and sweethearts of the men. The aldermen may take our word for it that the most honeyed speeches they are capable of delivering to the returning soldiers will not have half the interest that the most unstudied observations of "the girl I left behind me" will assuredly possess.

#### COL. OTTER AS A COMMANDER.

OUR readers will remember that the Toronto *Globe* and *Mail* had exceedingly contradictory stories as to the precise date of the arrival of the relieving column at Battleford, and that one of them went into extreme rhapsodies of praise over the alleged extraordinary marching powers the troops composing it had exhibited, until the fallacy of its claims were exposed by the *Telegram*, whose better information pricked the bubble by showing that the men had not marched, but had ridden in waggons. The discrepancy as to the date of the arrival of the column has never yet been cleared up; but the newest account of the march itself, and of the arrival at Battleford, has recently appeared in the *Winnipeg Sun* from a teamster who signs himself "James Wills," and who says that he has seen several accounts of that occurrence and of the Fish Creek affair, "but none from any who made the march or were actually in the engagement." What were the correspondents about if the following are the facts, heretofore religiously suppressed?—

I was one of the teamsters who accompanied it, and consequently know the exact circumstances. In the first place, when we (the teamsters) were engaged we only agreed to travel from fifteen to twenty miles per day. As each teamster's load of supplies was exhausted he, with his team, was to be sent back to General Laurie, at the Saskatchewan. But instead of this arrangement being carried out, our waggons, as fast as emptied, were filled with soldiers, and instead of driving from fifteen to twenty miles per day, we drove thirty to forty. This we agreed to do because it was represented to us that the besieged in Battleford were in a most critical condition. Several of our horses were completely used up, and some had to be left along the road to die, because of the rate of speed we were obliged to keep up. But at this none of us complained, believing as we did that we were hurrying to the rescue of helpless women and children in the fort. Our minds were slightly disabused of this idea when one afternoon at four o'clock we got within two miles and a half of Battleford and could see the flames distinctly as the town was being fired up. Otter seeing this, at once gave orders to form a corral, and though the men of the Queen's Own and others were wild with impatience to go to the rescue, they were commanded to stay where they were. The poor fellows gathered in knots of from ten to twelve and discussed the matter, their eyes meanwhile watching with intense interest the flaming town in the distance, and expressions not at all complimentary to the commanding officer were frequently heard. Charlie Ross, a scout, was sent in, however, and returned shortly before dark, saying that as nearly as he could judge there were about 100 Indians gathered around the fire. Ross was fired at while returning, but escaped unhurt. He now took five scouts, and went back to the fire, while the fellows of the Queen's Own looked after them with tears in their eyes because of their inability to go and help. Colonel Otter now had the cannons fired, with the object of frightening the Indians. Ross had only gone a short time when we heard firing in the direction of the town, and Colonel Herchmer, becoming alarmed, took about twenty of the Mounted Police and went to his assistance. But before he arrived Ross had driven the Indians out of the town. They then returned to camp, the Indians remaining quiet during the rest of the night. It says a good deal for Ross' courage when he would, with only five men at his back, attack 100 redskins, but not much for Otter's, who would not venture in with 700 soldiers. In the morning Ross again went into Battleford, and coming back reported the road clear, and accordingly Otter's command moved into the town about eleven o'clock.

Here is Wills' account of the Cut Knife Creek affair:—

The Indians fired first, and without receiving a command from Col. Otter our soldiers returned the fire. Herchmer practically took command during the whole of the fight, Otter remaining quiet somewhere near the waggons. Ross, the scout, is deserving of the utmost credit for his daring and bravery, as is also Col. Herchmer, who was frequently in the thickest of the fight. Ross had been one time scouting in a ravine, and returning, reported to Herchmer that the

Indians were trying to surround the troops. Herchmer, who was closely engaged at the time, said: "Well, what do you want?" Ross answered: "I want some good men at once." Herchmer replied: "Well, take them and go; but I can't spare any more." Ross waited for no more, but going to some of the boys, shouted: "Here, you Battleford scalpers, come with me." It is needless to say several men went at once. They had some of the hottest work of the day, but succeeded in driving the enemy back, and in capturing some of their ponies. As they came back up the hill on the ponies, Ross decorated with an Indian head-gear, they were mistaken for the genuine article, and fired upon forthwith. Fortunately no damage was done, and the mistake was soon discovered. After fighting for seven hours and a half, we commenced the retreat, the Indians firing on us to the last, and following us to the foot of the hill.

Now, this teamster may perhaps be misrepresenting the facts for some vindictive purpose not apparent; but that his account is original and throws new light upon the circumstances is not to be wondered at when it is remembered that letters from members of the Queen's Own, who could not safely send for publication statements reflecting upon their superiors, have distinctly asserted that the two correspondents who accompanied the expedition did not leave their safe position by the waggons to see the fight, but made up their reports from information obtained from officers after the return to Battleford. If Mr. Wills' account of the arrival before Battleford and of the affair at Cut Knife Hill is substantially correct, there is no harm in the public receiving it. If, however, he has libelled an officer whose reputation is dear to Toronto, by placing him in a most unenviable light before the population of Manitoba, the writer should be held severely accountable and the fullest vindication be afforded to Col. Otter.

#### "CAPTURE OF BATOCHÉ."

SINCE our last number went to press the colored lithograph illustrating the charge on the rifle pits, issued by the *Grip* Printing and Publishing Company, has been put in circulation, and fully realizes the conception of the occurrence formed by all who have closely read the very full accounts sent by the press correspondents at the front. The best confirmation of the accuracy of the picture is, however, to be found by comparing its details with the precise facts as exhibited on the surveyors' map that appears on page 104, and which only reached Toronto after the colored picture had gone to press. It will thereby be seen that, subjected to this test, the lithograph has been compiled with astonishing fidelity from the sketches forwarded from the scene of action. Indeed it is in the highest degree creditable to Canadian art, as well as enterprise, that so excellent and spirited a representation of an important historic event could be reduced so promptly and so faithfully in Toronto, and then be offered at the low retail price of 30 cents per copy.

#### A SPECIAL HOLIDAY NUMBER OF "GRIP,"

containing sixteen pages, lithographed in colors, stitched and trimmed, will be ready for issue on Dominion Day. This is the first effort that has been made in Canada to produce a holiday paper, and from the advance sheets to hand we are in a position to predict that it will prove a great success. Among the illustrations are the following:—Two full-page cartoons in colors entitled, "Miss Canada's Eighteenth Birthday," and "Dominion Day Fancies"; a double-page cartoon in colors showing "Our Temple of Fame," in recognition of the prowess of the forces in the North-West and including likenesses of many prominent public men. Then there are ten pages of fresh original humor, profusely illustrated. This special number, notwithstanding its manifold attractions, will be sold at the moderate retail price of 10 cents.

CAPT. MCMURKICH'S battery of garrison artillery, which has been on active service at the New Garrison barracks, Toronto, for a period of two months, was dismissed this week from further duty.

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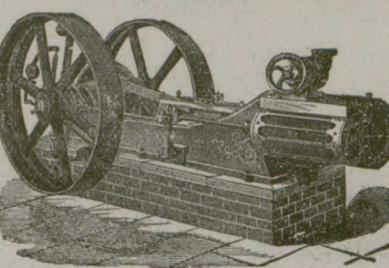
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It contains Graphic Illustrations of Experiences of the Volunteers and events transpiring at the Front in connection with the North-Western Rebellion; portraits of principal Officers, and illustrations of places of interest in the North-West. The paper consists of twelve pages 12 x 18 inches, printed and lithographed in tints, on good paper.

Number 1 was issued on April 4th, and contained the following illustrations:—

Battle of Duck Lake, March 27th; The Muster of the Tenth Royals and Queen's Own at the Drill Shed, Toronto, March 28th; The Fort at Battleford; The Town of Battleford; The Tenth Royals and Queen's Own marching out of the Drill Shed, Toronto, to receive Clothing, etc., Saturday Night, March 28th; Fort Carlton; Crowfoot, Chief of the Blackfeet; Pie-a-pot, Chief of the Crees; Cree Indians. Also a two-page supplement showing the Departure of the Queen's Own and Tenth Royals for the North-West, March 30th.

Number 2 was issued April 11th, and contained the following illustrations:—

Indian Teepee and Rebel Half-breed; Fort Qu'Appelle, N.W.T.; Prince Albert Settlement; Humboldt; Clarke's Crossing; Ups and Downs; A Welcome Call; Scenes on the Cars en route to the Front; Presentation of Flag to the Toronto Volunteers at Carleton Place, by Mrs. Edward Blake; Arrival of Tenth Royal Grenadiers at Winnipeg; The 90th Battalion of Rifles leaving Winnipeg for the Front. Also a two-page supplement showing Departure of the Governor-General's Body-Guards, and the 65th Battalion (French Canadians) leaving Bonaventure Station, Montreal.

No. 3 was issued April 18th. It contained the following illustrations:

"A" Battery in the Touchwood Hills; Stuck in a Snow-Bank; Midnight Tramp of the Royal Grenadiers; A Parade of Major Crozier's Command at Battleford; Lord Melgund; Major Crozier; Col. Miller, Q.O.R.; Quelling Mutiny of the Tenth Royals; Arrival of the Royal Grenadiers at Camp Desolation; Marching into Quarters at Port Monroe; An Occasional Spill; Cold Comfort in a Flat Car. Besides the above numerous illustrations, a large two-page cartoon by Canada's Cartoonist, J. W. Bengough, deals with the question "Who is Responsible?" It is without doubt one of the best efforts of this clever artist. This number is having a tremendous sale.

No. 4 was issued April 25, and contained the following illustrations:

Lord Melgund's Scouts Surrounding Three of White Cap's Warriors; Col. Otter's Brigade on the Line of March; Trying the Gatlings; Steamers Loading at Medicine Hat; The Midland Battalion's Departure from Winnipeg; Reading Battalion Orders in the Drill-Shed, Hamilton; The Winnipeg Light Infantry Preparing for Service; Portraits of the Minister of Militia, Lt.-Col. Oulmet, Lieut. Morrow, etc.

No. 5, published May 2nd, contained the following illustrations:

Major-Gen. Middleton and his A.D.C. (Equestrian Portraits); The Relief of Battleford; Incident in connection with the Fort Pitt Garrison; Typical sketches in the Drill Shed, Hamilton; Whole Page Group—Portraits of the Rebel Leaders; The Battle of Fish Creek.

No. 6, published on the 9th May, contained the following illustrations:

The first Expedition for the Relief of Battleford Attacked by Half-breeds; Solemn Scene after the Battle of Fish Creek; The 7th Battalion (Fusiliers) of London, entertained at Port Arthur; the Ottawa Sharpshooters (G.G.F.G.) at Winnipeg; Commencement of the Fight at Duck Lake; Advance Guard of the Royal Grenadiers passing Humboldt; Men of "C" Company (Infantry School) Returning from a Rabbit Hunt. Also a splendid two-page supplement, entitled "Toronto Ladies Receiving and Packing Contributions for the Volunteers at the Front."

No. 7, published on the 16th May, contained the following illustrations:

A brave Scout's untimely end; Camp of the 7th Battalion (Fusiliers) at Winnipeg; The Battle of Cut Knife Creek; Scenes with the North-West Field Force; Portraits of Interest. Also a two-page Cartoon (by J. W. Bengough),

entitled "And Now For Business," in which Major-General Middleton is represented as preparing to strike the decisive blow against the Rebels.

No. 8, published Saturday, May 23rd, contained the following illustrations:

A Look-out on the Qu'Appelle Trail; Departure of the Montreal Garrison Artillery; Experiences of the Royal Grenadiers; Funeral of Two Members of the 90th Battalion at Winnipeg; also a fine Two-PAGE SUPPLEMENT, showing seven sketches of Camp Life in the Experiences of the Royal Grenadiers; and four incidents of the Battle of Fish Creek (from sketches by our special artist, Mr. Curzon).

No. 9 published on the 30th May contained the following illustrations:

In the Skirmish Line at Batoche; The 65th Battalion (Mount Royal Rifles) at Port Arthur; Lieut.-Col. Gray, M.P.P., Commanding the Toronto Field Battery; A Zebra in the North-West; The Artillery Shelling the Enemy at the Battle of Fish Creek; The Application of the First Bandage on the Battlefield—No. 1; also, the usual fine two-page supplement entitled "The Bayonet Charge at Batoche."

No. 10 published on the 6th June, contained the following illustrations:

Brigade Funerals of Lieut. Fitch and Private Moor, Royal Grenadiers; How the Royal Grenadiers got their Dinner before Batoche; Major Larmour's Portable Rifle Pits in Action; Big Bear, the last of the Rebels; The 38th Battalion (Dufferin Rifles) of Brantford; also, a fine two-page Supplement showing sundry sketches from the front, by Mr. F. W. Curzon.

No. 11 published on 13th June contained the following illustrations:

A Royal Grenadier's chance for the Victoria Cross; Views at Qu'Appelle, N.W.T., from sketches by Mr. R. B. Urnston; Camp Denison, Humboldt, N.W.T., from sketches by Trooper E. Kershaw, G.G.B.G.; sketches from Battleford, by Lieut. Wadmore, I.S.C.; The 62nd Bat. (St. John Fusiliers) called out for service in the North-west, crossing the Market Square en route for the Intercolonial Railway Station, from a sketch by Mr. John E. Miles. Also a fine two-page supplement, being a splendid portrait for framing, of Major-General Middleton, C.B., commanding the Militia Forces of the Dominion, from the latest photograph by Topley of Ottawa.

No. 12 published on 20th June contained the following illustrations:

Rescue of Mrs. Gowlock and Mrs. Delaney by a party of Scouts of the Cowboy Brigade, from Photographs and Sketches furnished by J. D. Higginbotham & Co., Fort McLeod; Portraits of Interest; Applications of the First Bandage on the Battlefield—No. 2—from original sketches by Mr. F. Humme. Also a fine two-page Supplement, showing "Sketches from the Front," drawn on Gabriel Dumont's paper bags, by Mr. F. W. Curzon, Special Artist of THE CANADIAN PICTORIAL, with Gen. Middleton's command; and a "View of Battleford as seen from Fort Otter," from a sketch by Lieut. R. Lyndhurst, Wadmore, of C. Company, Infantry School Corps, Toronto.

Copies of any of the above numbers can be obtained from local booksellers, or will be sent, postpaid, on receipt of price by the publishers.

The publishers have an artist accompanying the expedition, and many of the above illustrations are from his sketches.

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