

the Commander-in-Chief must be of a particularly flagrant character to have "drawn" the War Office in the manner indicated by the circular memorandum just issued on the subject. "In this case," the memorandum says, that "the fraud was facilitated by the following irregularities:—Target practice registers being made up in the office instead of on the rifle range, and by members who had resigned during the year being kept on the rolls until after the 31st of October." Commanding officers are reminded by the circular that "registers must be taken on the rifle range, and every man's score must be entered on the spot, and verified by the signature of the non-commissioned officer keeping the register, and by the officer and non-commissioned officer superintending the practice, before leaving the ground." In reference to resignations, the circular memorandum lays down that "all resignations must be signified in writing, and the member must be struck off the strength of the corps after the lapse of a fortnight, or as soon afterwards as he has complied with the provisions of section 7 of the Volunteer Act of 1863." The document moreover states that a commanding officer is "to insist on the adjutant attending class firing as frequently as can possibly be arranged" Whilst adjutants and sergeant-instructors will always be severely dealt with, it is impressed on "commanding officers of corps that they are alone responsible for the correctness of returns signed by them, and if they permit any system to exist in the corps under their commands which is contrary to regulations, or which can afford any opportunity for fraud, they must be held responsible, and will render themselves liable to very serious consequences."

### Wolseley on the Red River Expedition.

Lord Wolseley gave a very interesting address recently at Toynbee Hall, Whitechapel, on the story of the Red River Expedition, commanded by himself, in 1780. His lordship premised that the expedition became necessary in consequence of the formation in 1867 of what was now well known as the Dominion of Canada, the provinces which had hitherto been independent being federated under one government. Among the provinces was one formerly known as Rupert's Land. Charles II, though a profligate monarch, had established some useful institutions during his reign, and among them was the Hudson Bay Company, which received a charter from him. The Company, up to quite a recent period, were the rulers of the country, and exercised an almost imperial sway over these great territories. He took the opportunity during the expedition of visiting many of the stations which the company had established. At the company's stores literally everything was sold "from a needle to an anchor." The master was everybody—parson, doctor, judge. He married the Indians, gave them physic, and if necessary read the funeral service over them. In fact he was a most useful member of society. This province, where the company was omnipotent, was one of those federated in the Dominion. At that time there was a small population assembled along the Red River. They were all trappers, collecting skins for the company, and skins were the only money current. They objected to be handed over to the new government—"like cattle," as they expressed it—without having their wishes consulted in any way. The majority of the people were "half-breeds, and they numbered altogether only about 15,000.

The Canadian Government were rather in a hurry to get their affairs in order and everything settled, and they appointed a governor of the province and sent him out. When he arrived on the border he was met by a deputation who had dubbed themselves "The Revolutionary Government," and said that if he entered the province they would make him a prisoner and turn him back. A man named Riel was at the head of the baby revolution, and had got possession of Fort Garry. He was a man of bad character, for he had been convicted of stealing in the United States. Nevertheless he had got influence over the half-breeds. He was living in great poverty with his mother at the time of the outbreak, when he was appointed president. He did not oppose the expedition. This man wishing to show his authority, tried a man by court-martial, and had him shot. This murder excited great feeling in Canada, and the Government were obliged to bend to it and send an expedition. He was very glad to have the command, because he liked the country, and for several years previous had been in the habit, when he had a holiday, of going far back into the wilds of Canada, accompanied only by Indians. It was decided that the expedition should consist of a small brigade of three battalions, with guns and engineers. There was some difficulty about the route. Some people, his lordship said, amid laughter, suggested that they should be sent by the North Pole, but there were drawbacks to that, and ultimately they landed at Fort William, on Lake Superior, with a journey of 600 miles before them to Fort Garry. It was one great continuous struggle against the difficulties of nature and against time.

There were several circumstances connected with the starting of the expedition that were very disagreeable. Just before they set out a man

—an excellent man with the best intentions in the world—said, "I wish to tell you before you go—I shall never see you again, for you will never come back—that you are committing a crime in taking these men to certain destruction." The General replied, "I am only a soldier, and must obey orders. We have been told to go to Fort Garry, and you may take your oath we'll get there." And they did get there. The men worked as he had never seen men work before or since. There was no sabbath till they got back. The officers had perfect confidence in the men, and the men in the officers. They knew the dangers of the journey, 600 miles through a howling wilderness. The whole country was filled with lakes and small rivers, and the rivers were full of rapids. There was scarcely any game in the woods, and he did not believe the men got a good square meal the whole time till they arrived at their destination. Everything had to be carried, for there were no roads. They did as much of the journey as possible in boats, but at every rapid all the baggage had to be taken out and carried round with the boats, and it was very amusing to see the great rivalry which sprung up between the companies to see which could get in front of the other. The work did not improve their clothes. The empty flour sacks were used to mend the men's breeches, but by the time they got back there were very few breeches among them. There was a superstition that Englishmen could do no hard work without a certain amount of liquor, but from the time they started till the time they got back not a drop of grog was drunk.

At Fort Francis he was met by his friend Sir W. Butler, who, he was glad to say, was present. He had come from Fort Garry, and bore news which was worth its weight in gold. There was a very large assemblage of Indians at Fort Francis. Indians were sharp fellows in their way, and they wanted to get as much out of him as they could. They had a great pow-wow, and the head man spoke without drawing breath for quite half-an-hour, though he didn't understand a word of it. The Indians were very dirty people; if they wore clothes they wore them till they dropped off, so that they were not very pleasant companions. Lord Wolseley told some amusing stories of Indians. One was about a great chief who rejoiced in the somewhat unromantic name of John Thomas. This chief called upon him for the purpose of getting what he could from him for the right of way through the territory. He made a long speech in broken French, and at last the General to get rid of him took a florin out of his pocket and handed it to the chief. John Thomas carefully scrutinised it, and then, to the amazement of Lord Wolseley, gravely said, "Make it half-a-crown." His lordship paid a high tribute of praise to the Indian boatmen who piloted them through rapids in which the slightest mistake would have cost those in the boat their lives. When they arrived at Fort Garry they found that Riel had escaped. This was disappointing to the men, who had looked forward to a little amusement at the end of their march, but they had the satisfaction of eating the breakfast prepared for Riel and his followers.

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