

Birthday, the remnants of the battalions began to fill up their ranks with men ready to follow to the front. They were ordered to parade at 5 o'clock the next morning, and were dismissed to their homes, with the exception of a few detailed for guard and sentry duty at the Banks and elsewhere.

PROGRESS OF THE ADVANCE BATTALION TO THE FRONT.

Nothing of interest marked the journey from Montreal to St. Johns, where the special train arrived about nine in the evening, and was received by a mixed and excited crowd. The station was guarded by a detachment of the 21st St. Johns Battalion, under Lt.-Col. Marchand, the sentries being posted in front of the telegraph and ticket offices. Railway officials, who were also volunteer officers, hurried about giving orders, now military and now civil. Eager was the questioning between the crowd and the newcomers, and very unsatisfactory the answers on both sides; while the officers, Col. Smith and Capt. Gascoigne, Gen. Lindsay's aide, who accompanied the expedition as Brigade Major, were in close consultation with the district Brigade Major, Col. Fletcher, and Col. Marchand, commanding the local brigade and the St. Johns Artillery Corps. Telegrams exchanged with Montreal, brought orders, in pursuance of which the following disposal of the troops was made: The detachment of the Montreal Garrison Artillery, under Capt. Wicksteed, was despatched, amid the cheers of their late companions, to garrison the fort at Isle-aux-Noix, about 15 miles up the Richelieu from St. Johns, which had been left for some time vacant, on account of the withdrawal of the Imperial troops. The service companies of the Prince of Wales, Royals and Hochelagas, under Captains Bulmer, McKenzie and Gardner, respectively, on being disembarked from the train, marched into the town, where they were to be billeted until further orders.

The object of having the main body at St. Johns is evident when it is observed that that town is the nearest place of any size to the expected point of attack, which is upon a line of railway. From it a force could at any time be sent to St. Armand Station, three hours from Pigeon Hill, or to Starbridge Station, four hours by another road from Cook's Corners, either of which places is within a couple of miles from the boundary, and commands a road from the States.

The remainder of the expeditionary column, some 90 men in all, consisting of the Victorias under Capt. Crawford, with Lieut.