

by rail to Swift Current, thence by trail to relieve Battleford, which had for some time been surrounded, and part of the town south of the Battle River burned and looted by the Indians under the Cree Chief, Poundmaker. At 5 o'clock on the afternoon of the 6th April, "A" Battery started across the prairie for Fort Qu'Appelle, a distance of 20 miles. It was a bitter cold night, and as we had four men with accoutrements in a small cart it was truly miserable. The teams went on, sometimes walking, sometimes trotting, our legs got cramped with cold, and sitting in a doubled up position, with cold showers of sleet blowing in our faces, our position was not exactly comfortable. On our arrival at the Fort we were lodged in a school room and after some tea, and some of the much abused "hard-tack," we dropped off to sleep. After breakfast next morning Captain Peters paid us, and we made purchases of such articles as we wanted. Here for the first time we found out that the five cent piece was the lowest legal money tender in the North West. Getting our trays on the waggons we commenced our journey again, passing the mounted police barracks, and going up a pretty steep ascent, we found ourselves on the top of the Qu'Appelle valley, and at a depot of a large quantity of stores and provisions. Our battery horses which up to this time had been ridden by the mounted men, were put to the guns and we started across the prairie. Stopping about mid-day we cooked some tea, reaching Houghton 24 miles from Qu'Appelle about 8 o'clock. Here a scramble in the dark ensued, pitching tents, &c. After an extra blanket being served out we were told off to our tents, twelve men to each, and we tried to sleep, but in most cases it was a failure. Starting off again about 8 o'clock on the morning of the 8th we reached General Middleton's company about 10 a. m., where we found the following troops encamped: 90th Battalion, Winnipeg Field Battery, and part of French's Scouts—some of the latter accompanied us from Qu'Appelle. We now numbered about four hundred of all ranks. Pitching our camp we remained here until next morning.

Exactly at 4.30 on the morning of the 9th *reveille* sounded, we turned out, rolled up blankets, struck tents, and after breakfast, all of us with the exception of the cooks, old and new guard, prepared for our first day's tramp, as up to this time we had been carried in the waggons. We started off, the guns following up the advanced guard, which was furnished by the 90th, then came the escort of dismounted garrison artillery, next the remainder of the 90th, and behind them our waggons, French's Scouts riding ahead, and on each flank of the column, so as to prevent us being taken by surprise by the enemy. Halting at mid-day we had dinner and then after another three hours pitched our camp on the Touch Wood Hills in the same order as on the previous night. After this 21 miles tramp, some of us felt tired and the most of us had wet feet, and no means of getting them dried. At 4.30 next morning, after the usual