

EXPERIENCES OF THE HALIFAX BATTALION IN THE NORTH-WEST.

BY ROBERT A. SHERLOCK.

On the morning of the 11th April, 1885, the Halifax Battalion ordered on active service in the North-West paraded in the Drill Shed, Spring Garden Road, at 7 o'clock, in accordance with orders issued the evening before. On the roll being called, it was found there were only two absentees, whose names I will not mention. The Battalion was composed of two Companies of the Halifax Garrison Artillery, three Companies 63rd Rifles, and three Companies 66th Princess Louise Fusiliers, numbering in all 382 Officers and Men, under command of Lieut.-Col. J. J. Bremner. At 8 o'clock the command "Fours" was given; "Advance in successive Companies by fours from the front"; "No 1 Company, left wheel; quick march"; many amongst us, if not all, disregarding the fact that we were probably marching off that parade ground for the last time. Our country required our service, and, like true Nova Scotians by birth and adoption as we were, we obeyed its call regardless of consequences. We were headed by the Bands of the Royal Irish Rifles, H. G. A., 63rd and 66th Regts., who played lively airs along the route to North Street. Never before were greater crowds seen on the streets of Halifax. Old and young, rich and poor, mothers, wives, sisters and sweethearts; fathers, brothers, sons, uncles and relations of all degrees of affinity, as well as those who were not relations at all, were there to bid us God-speed on our journey; but the most pathetic scene was the last good-bye as we boarded the cars at North Street. Strong men who would have manfully stood in front of any enemy were unable to hold up on the occasion of that last farewell, and had to hide their faces, for a time at least, in order that no