

## Gen. Selby Smyth's Transcontinental Trip.

FORT CARLETON, Aug. 7, 1875.

Our party left Fort Garry on Monday, the 19th of July, and drove as far as Shoal Lake, about 190 miles, arriving there on the forenoon of the 23rd, making the journey in four and a half days; there we found some horses of the Mounted Police with an escort to take us to Fort Pelly, which they did by a new road of their own making, more direct than the one by Fort Ellice, arriving at Pelly, 135 miles, in three and a half days, where we spent the 27th and part of the 28th, leaving on the afternoon of the latter day with forty five men and officers, Colonel French and staff, besides our escort of ten men.

We have learned at Winnipeg that some half breeds, numbering 150 families, settled at St. Laurent, eighteen miles from here on the south branch of the Sackatchewan, had established a sort of republic of their own, under one Gabriel Dumoncel, laying claim to certain hunting grounds and fining those they were pleased to consider as trespassers. They are all well armed with repeating rifles, buffalo hunting being their trade, and Dumoncel has a body guard of forty men. This is one side of the story, the other has not been heard yet. The original report was in a letter from Mr. Warke, the Hudson Bay officer here, to Lieutenant-Governor Morris.

We arrived here yesterday morning, the 5th, having made 270 miles in a little over eight days, very good marching for mounted men. The mounted police force are a fine body of men, in capital condition as to men and horses, as far as we have seen, and are doing wonders to civilize the country, making roads, digging wells, and maintaining law and order. They seemed to be appreciated by everybody, and directly our force appeared here one or two of the St. Laurent people came in great haste to Mr. Clarke and asked for pardon, frightened by the appearance of the police. The site chosen for their barracks is most unfortunate. Fort Pelly is out of the way and is situated in the worst country we have seen. The barracks are built on an eminence covered with boulders, a fine place to drill mounted men. In fact the only stones and rocks we have seen are at Pelly; the barracks are of the flimsiest description, built, by some stupid mistake, in one line, and in winter will be quite uninhabitable. The police have seventy acres under cultivation near there, and more at Edmonton and McLeod, and are the only people we have seen with vegetables as yet. The General inspected them this morning, and addressed them in a speech, which I enclose. On our way back we met Mr. Bell, of the Pacific railway survey, who, by the way, gives a lamentable account of the country the line passes through between Pelly and where we met him, a place called the High Hill, an eminence about 200 miles from Pelly, swamps and brule. A man with letters could not reach the line, and had to return to him. He confirmed a report we had previously heard that the Crees had turned back the party laying the telegraph line and some people boring for minerals, part of the Geological Survey people. I have seen the engineer in charge and he says the Indians were very quiet and civil, and gave as a reason that they had not had their treaty, one having been promised for this year. Which is not bad for savages! They seem to make no opposition to our going on.

The country we had passed through has been almost entirely wooded prairie, i. e., with patches of trees, rich soil covered with wild flowers; the roses are particularly lux-

uriant, the exception to this being Fort Pelly and one or two alkali plains, one twenty five miles broad, where nothing but coarse grass grows, and that very scanty. The water is undrinkable. Indeed, throughout, nearly all the larger lakes are alkaline, the water being generally got from marshes, where, however, when wells are dug, good water is obtained at once. Game we have seen but little of, an antelope, and prairie chickens and ducks. The trail is now quite a highroad; hardly a day passes without meeting somebody. The grasshoppers are the great drawback. They have eaten almost everything where they have been, and disheartened agriculturalists. They have not been within fifty miles of this place, however. We leave this afternoon for Edmonton, and I am writing against time.

P. S.—I hear Mr. Graham, of the Hudson Bay Company, went from Fort Ellice to Winnipeg in a little over two days, about 267 miles, with twenty horses, leaving them on the road when done up, and almost finishing some, broke the ferry down at Ellice with the weight of his horses, and that a messenger bringing an important despatch was delayed. It is a fine thing to be a Hudson Bay swell, but not a Hudson Bay horse, under the circumstances!

The following is General Selby Smyth's address referred to in our correspondent's letter:—

"I am much pleased at having had the opportunity of seeing so much of the Headquarters' Divisions of the Mounted Police Force, and to have been able to form an opinion of their efficiency upon the rapid march which you have just made with so much credit to yourselves. There are few mounted troops who would have made such a march of 270 miles in eight days, and brought their horses in in good working condition at the end of it. I am happy to see the cheerful disposition and good humour which pervades all ranks, and which proves what contentment and good feeling exists throughout. I am now satisfied, and I never doubted it, that the defamatory letters which have from time to time appeared in the press were written by ill disposed persons, and did not give a true statement of this Force—probably by deserters who, having broken their oath of allegiance, did not scruple to write untruths when they found the Police Force was not the holiday pastime they had anticipated. The Police Force is the beginning of a new order of things in the North West Territory—prosperity and security will follow in its track. I congratulate Colonel French, the officers and men, on the excellent condition of this new Force, which will improve from day to day as time gives opportunity. It will be my pleasing duty to make a very favourable report to the Government of all I have seen of the Mounted Police, and if I can be of any service to you at Ottawa, you may rely upon me befriending you whenever I can. We are now about to separate, and I can only say I wish you success and prosperity in the performance of your important duties in the North West Territories."—*Toronto Mail*.

A man named Hall, while returning home from Farran's Point on Wednesday of last week was thrown from the waggon by the breaking of the board on which he and two others were sitting. He fell under the waggon, and one of the wheels passed over him causing such internal injuries that he died next day.

## RIFLE COMPETITION.

ONTARIO RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

## Annual Prize Meeting.

The annual prize meeting of the Ontario Rifle Association opened Tuesday at the Garrison Common ranges.

The following are the scores of the prize winners in the

## ALL CORNERS' MATCH.

This match was open to all members of the Ontario Rifle Association, whether by direct contribution, or through affiliated associations. First prize, \$25; second prize \$20; third prize, \$15; five prizes of \$10; ten prizes of \$5; ten prizes of \$4; ten prizes of \$2; Snider Enfield rifles; ranges, 200 and 500 yards; number of rounds at each range, five; entrance fee, seventy five cents.

	Tl.
Sergt Lewis, Q O R.....	37
Pte Cotton, Guards R A.....	36
Lieut J Pearson, Albert R A.....	36
Major Gibson, 13th Batt.....	36
Sergt Pain, 13th Batt.....	35
Capt Todd, Guards A R.....	35
Sergt Doudiet, 10th Royals.....	34
Pte Mills, 10th Royals.....	34
Pte John Little, Albert R A.....	34
Capt Johnston, Halton R A.....	34
Sergt Major W Cruit, Albert R A.....	34
Sergt Sutherland, Guards R A.....	34
Pte Murison, 13th Batt.....	33
Pte Margetts, Q O R.....	33
Pte D Margetts, Q O R.....	33
Pte Hughes, 10th Royals.....	33
Sergt Hancock, 13th Batt.....	33
Sergt Clayton, Guards R A.....	33
Pte J Mitchell 13th Batt.....	33
Pte H C Denney, Q O R.....	33
Kns Adams, 13th Batt.....	33
Pte Newby, Guards R A.....	33
Sergt Foreman, Q O R.....	32
Corp Johnston, 10th Royals.....	32
Sergt Macdonald, Wellington Field Batt	32
Pte Schwartz, 13th Batt.....	32
Pte C Wilson, Q O R.....	32
Capt McPherson, Ottawa R C.....	32
Sergt Stanley, Q O R.....	32
Pte Todd, Bruce R A.....	32
Sergt McRoberts, 13th Batt.....	32
Pte Blactin, Metropolitan Club.....	32
Lieut H J Hill, 10th Royals.....	32
Capt Mason, 13th Batt.....	32
Asst Surg Macdonald Wellington F R..	32
Sergt Cunningham, Hastings R A.....	32
Corp Blake, 10th Royals.....	32
George Leslie, O R A.....	32

At half past one o'clock Mr. John Gordon, the President of the Association, entertained a numerous company of gentlemen at a champagne luncheon in one of the buildings of the new garrison.

The President occupied the chair, with Lieut. Col. Durie, D. A G., and Professor Goldwin Smith on his right, and the President of the City Council and Mr. Justice Patterson on his left. There were also present Hon. Wm. Cayley, Lieut. Col. Scoble, Lieut. Col. Williams, Lieut. Col. Skinner, M.P., Lieut. Col. Stollery, Brigade Major Denison, Capt. Denison, Major Moore, Dr. Thorburn, Dr. Richardson, Dr. De La Hooke, Major Draper, Geo. Laidlaw A. T. Fulton, Thos. Hedgins, M.P.P., Lieut. Col. Otter, Lieut. Col. Goodwin, Major Algor, Capt. Holmes, Dominion Artillery, John McNab, Major Arthurs, James Graham, E. Wragge, A. R. McMaster, Capt. Miller, etc.

After the viands had been partaken of:—The President rose and said that the arrangements the Committee had made had