

and it was the lot of the writer, as a commissioned officer in the 91st Regiment or Manitoba Light Infantry, to be one in the first party of white men who reached Frog Lake settlement after the rumor of massacre had been received.

Without going into any description of the plan of campaign that General Sir Fred. Middleton saw fit to carry out, it is necessary to state that a column under the command of General Strange, and consisting of the Alberta Mounted Rifles, the 91st Winnipeg Light Infantry, the 65th Mount Royal Rifles, 25 Mounted Police, with a 12 pounder field piece, and about 50 Mounted Scouts under Inspector Steele—a total force of about 800—congregated at Calgary early during the month of April, 1885, the object being a rapid march to Edmonton, which was supposed then to be in a state of seige, and the relief of that place. The excitement at Calgary when the troops from the east arrived there was intense. The wildest rumors were flying about regarding the uprising of Indians and the dreadful danger of the settlers in the north. Applications for military help and assistance poured in on General Strange, and that thorough soldier, as brave a man as ever wore British uniform or was snubbed by a self-conceited Commander-in-Chief, had to yield to the pressure, and a company of the 91st, under command of Captain Vallancey, was sent south to Fort McLeod, while another company of the same regiment, under command of Major John Lewis, was sent to the Blackfoot Reserve at Gleichen, and a third company of the same regiment was left at Calgary, together with a company of the 65th Mount Royal Rifles. The remainder of the force, some 500 men, started for Edmonton, which place was reached late one Sunday afternoon, after a rapid march of eleven days, two of

which were spent in crossing the Red Deer river, at the time considerably swollen by melted snow and rain.

Everything at Edmonton was quiet. There had been uneasiness and the settlers had crowded into the fort for protection, but had returned to their farms, the Indians having given no trouble. Leaving a company of the 65th to garrison the fort, and sending another company of the same regiment to the Indian farm near Edmonton, the remainder of the force proceeded eastward towards Fort Pitt, the mounted men by land and the infantry in flat boats down the Saskatchewan as far as Fort Victoria. At Fort Victoria the four companies of the 91st rejoined the Scouts and Mounted Police and proceeded with them by land to Fort Pitt; the companies of the 65th continuing their journey to the same destination in the flat boats.

The scenery along the north shore of the Saskatchewan was exceedingly lovely, but neither Indians, half breeds nor whites were met after Fort Victoria had been left. That place had been looted about ten days before the troops arrived there, and bags of flour, sides of bacon, etc., stolen from the fort, had been cached along the banks of the river, together with several thousand dollars worth of furs. All this property was secured and appropriated to the use of Her Majesty. The march towards Fort Pitt was slow, owing to the swollen condition of the creeks and the time it took to get the baggage waggons across, and also to the care which had to be exercised to avoid falling into an Indian ambushade. No one knew where the Red Skins and their allies, the Half Breeds, were. Not a soul was met to give any information; it was the march of a column into an enemy's country without any knowledge of the number of that enemy or his whereabouts,