

Batt. under command of Capt. Scott, and which was left at Fort Francis, brought up the rear, and reached Winnipeg over the Lake of the Woods road on September 14th.

Thus ended the Red River expedition, and one, which for endurance, for hard work of an unusual character and hardships suffered will compare along with any military expedition in which Britain has been engaged during the last quarter of a century. The following is an opinion of a writer in *Blackwoods Magazine*, supposed to be from the pen of Col. Wolsley himself, an officer loved and respected by those under him, and than whom no living man, was better qualified to command an army of Canadian volunteers:

"The expedition is an undertaking that will long stand out in our military chronicles as possessing characteristics peculiarly its own. The force which landed at Massowah in 1867 had to march about 400 miles inland through an uninhabited country, where supplies were obtainable, to relieve some British prisoners, held captives by a sovereign half tyrant half madman. Europe was in profound peace at the time, so all eyes were turned upon its doings. Although there can scarcely be said to have been any fighting as we had not even a man killed, still our ministry was glad to have an opportunity of attracting so much general attention to a military operation, entirely English, and may think that for the millions spent upon it, we as a nation received an equivalent in proving before the world, that we were still capable of military enterprise. The force sent to Red River for the purpose of crushing out rebellion there, had to advance from its point of disembarkation more than 600 miles* through a wilderness of water, rocks and forests,

where no supplies were to be had, and where every pound weight of provisions and stores had to be transported for miles; on the backs of the soldiers. Happily its object was accomplished, as in the expedition to Abyssina, without any loss of life. A great war was raging in Europe, whilst the expedition was forcing its way over and through the immense natural obstacles that lay in its path. All thoughts were of affairs upon the Rhine; no one could spare a moment's reflection for the doings of this little British Army. No home newspapers (or Canadian) cared to record its success, nor to sound one single note of praise in its honor. By the careful administration of General Lindsay and the officers he had selected to carry out his orders, the total expense of the whole expedition, was under £100,000, one quarter of which only is to be paid by England. There was no reckless waste, either in material or in money. Such a careful economy was exercised in its organization and in administering to its subsequent wants, that it may be safely asserted that no such distance has ever been traversed by an efficient brigade, numbering about 1,400 souls in any of our numerous little wars at such a trying cost."

Never in the military annals of any country was there a little army, who worked harder in wending their way through rocks and mountains, forests, and lakes, for a distance of nearly 2,000 miles, than the men of the first Red River expedition; and never, did any country treat their soldiers with more coldness and indifference, not to say base ingratitude, than did the government of Canada and the Canadian people. Officers and men of that expedition worked like beasts of burden, carrying loads upon their backs, from 3 o'clock a. m. until 9 p. m., oftentimes hungry and almost naked, their clothes torn from their backs through forests

*Should have said 734 miles from Thunder Bay by Winnipeg River.