

INCIDENTS IN THE EARLY

old days of bush warfare, when both officers and men were liable to a man-to-man conflict, firearms *were carried* and used effectively, as many of the pages of this old book testify.

Another peculiar feature in the outfit is the powder-horn. I have no doubt there are some present who have never seen one. I am sorry I cannot show you the powder horn carried by the old Major, but I have one here which was worn at that time through many a hard-fought conflict by his brother James, who, at the date engraved upon it, commanded one of the companies of the Rangers. In addition to a lot of fanciful carving on this old horn are the words, "James Rogers, his horn. 19th June, 1757." Some of the letters are nearly obliterated by a scar or bullet mark, and the story in connection with that mark is, that in one of the deadly encounters between the Rangers and Indians the owner of this horn became engaged in single combat with a Huron warrior. Whilst each from behind his own tree watched for his opponent, Rogers managed by a clever device to draw his enemy's fire by exposing his fur cap on the end of his powder-horn. The cap and this old horn were badly hit, but, as breech-loaders were not then in use, the Huron brave was caught at a disadvantage and soon despatched to the happy hunting-grounds.

The object of this address is to supply information of the early military history and the modes of warfare of those bygone days. I am afraid the impression is too general that *we* British Americans have very little in the way of history of events of the past to be worth remembering or enquiring into. But I feel it is the duty of every one who is able to contribute anything in the way of information on that subject to do so, and thereby assist in building up and strengthening a more patriotic and national feeling in this British Confederation of Canada.

I think it will be a matter of interest, and possibly advantage, to our volunteers to enquire into the systems and observe the exploits of our forefathers in arms 130 years ago. A little reflection on the equipment and means of transportation of those days will, I think, help us to bear up against the difficulties and so-called hardships of our militia service.

At the time this book commences (1755) the chief frontier forts of the French were Louisbourg, Crown Point on the west side of Lake Champlain, Oswego, Niagara, Pittsburgh on the Ohio River, and Detroit and Michillimackinac on the extreme west. For some years previous, vigorous and systematic encroachments had constantly been made by the French on the English settlements to the south. In all of these the Indians within the French territories, particularly the Hurons and the Algonquins, always took an active part. These hostilities eventually brought about the formal declaration of war between the two nations which lasted for seven years, during which the conquest of Canada was accomplished and the whole of North America, except Mexico and Florida, brought under the British flag.

The events I propose to refer to principally transpired in the vicinity of Lake Champlain and Lake George. Of all America's beautiful lakes these two, perhaps, present the greatest interest to the *greatest number*; to the tourist and pleasure-seeker, no more charming scenery can be found; to the student of history and the lover of legends and romances of a bygone age, no district can produce a greater abundance of interesting subjects. Previous to the settlement of the country by Europeans, Lake Champlain, which is 120 miles in length, had been the chief highway for warlike expeditions between hostile and powerful Indian tribes, and after the settlement it continued the same in reference to the French and English colonies. There-

*Also spelt: Michle-Macinae, Michilimackinac, Mackinaw.