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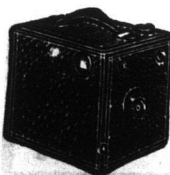
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When Almighty Voice was Silenced

By J. D. A. Evans, Crystal City.

[In April of 1896, the notorious Indian outlaw, Almighty Voice, was finally conquered in his retreat near Duck Lake by a detachment of the North West Mounted Police, who utilized a nine pound cannon loaded with 36 rounds of shrapnel.]

It was during the evening hours of one of the excessively sultry days Western Saskatchewan experienced in the first week of August last, that the writer was sitting in the garden situate at the rear of the Mounted Police Station at Gull Lake. In a cosy arm chair sat Mrs. Cutting; her husband the Sergeant in charge of the Gull Lake detachment, R.N.W.M.P., was reclining against the steps leading into the office. "You've been in the force a long time, Sergeant?" asked the writer.

The Sergeant, who, to use the expression made to his questioner a few days previously by an official of very high standing in the Mounted, "hasn't a yellow streak in his entire make up," is

have forgotten about him nowadays. Were you in the force then?"

"I was," answered Sergeant Cutting. "And I was also present at the termination of his wild career. It was," he paused momentarily, "yes, in 1896, of course, but I've never forgotten the events. I was with the detachment sent out from Regina to get Almighty Voice, dead or alive."

"I would like to hear that story, Sergeant," remarked the writer, who had learned during the day that the Gull Lake police official is able to recite events in his now lengthy official career in a manner possessed by few men.

"It was in the fall of 1894 that Almighty Voice commenced to make himself a rather prominent figure in the records of the force. He was a Cree Indian, born at Duck Lake, and at this time would be about twenty-three years of age. People talk about men of physique; Almighty Voice was of this class and no mistake; as a sprinter, few



His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught reviewing troops at Edmonton, Alberta prior to their entraining for the front. In the direct rear Lieut.-Governor Bulyea.

The Duke's term of office was nearly up, and Prince Alexander of Teck was to have succeeded him. At the outbreak of war, the Duke of Connaught remained on in his Vice-Regal capacity. His long and thorough military experience gained in previous wars and his grasp of Canadian affairs made him the man of the hour. At the declaration of war he immediately plunged into military activities.

Lieut.-Governor Bulyea, who accompanies him in the picture, at the declaration of war on behalf of the Province of Alberta donated half a million bushels of oats for shipment to Great Britain.

one of the most pleasant men to converse with. At first he was of a somewhat reticent disposition to refer to the many years of faithful service he has performed in summer's sunshine and wintry blizzard, with the guardians of the trails of the northland. Possibly he might have been excused from conversation regarding his activities with the force. An hour prior to the writer's visit, the indefatigable officer had returned from a patrol through a large section of the enormous district over which his jurisdiction extends. But within a few minutes a smile crept over the sergeant's sunburned face; then, he laughingly replied:

"Yes, it's a fact that I have been connected with the Mounted Police for quite a time."

"And seen some strange happenings too," remarked the writer. "Some of you fellows could relate queer stories of the experiences you've passed through."

Mrs. Cutting laughed at this statement, adding that she guessed her husband could, especially so concerning the early days in the Yukon. Sergeant Cutting was a member of the first police detachment dispatched to this distant zone.

"I've been in some pretty tight places right enough," said he. "I don't know if you were living in Manitoba eighteen years ago; if so, you might recollect reading of Almighty Voice and his escapades."

"Almighty Voice!" replied the writer in tones of great surprise. "I was in the West at that time but I've never heard of Almighty Voice since. People must

if any Indians at all could begin to compare with him. I think it was in October of the year mentioned, that he was mixed up in a case of cattle stealing; however, he was arrested and brought up for preliminary hearing before a magistrate at Duck Lake and remanded. In those days, Sergeant Colebrooke, a splendid officer, was in charge of the detachment at that place. Two constables were serving under him. After the magistrate had given Almighty Voice a remand, he was placed in a cell at the Post; one of the constables was told off to guard the prisoner. Colebrooke knew very well the desperate character Almighty Voice possessed. About two o'clock the next morning, the prisoner requested to be taken outside and was conducted by the constable, who shortly afterward replaced him in the cell. When this guard went off duty at four o'clock and notified the relief, it was only for a few minutes that the prisoner was left alone—the constable was much surprised to find the cell empty; Almighty Voice had escaped! Without a moment's delay the guard awakened Sergeant Colebrooke and informed him of the occurrence. In a few minutes Colebrooke had started off in pursuit of the fugitive, but realizing the importance of taking an interpreter with him in case the Indian should be overtaken, returned to the Post and left at daybreak with a half-breed who could converse in the Cree very fluently. The district through which they passed was covered with very thickly grown bluffs which, of course, would afford a good hiding place for Almighty Voice. However, about noon Colebrooke caught up with the outlaw who had with him a young squaw,