

we were instructed, on Sunday, the 8th instant, to join another corps of twenty men under the command of Mr. P. Brolau and Mr. Birston respectively, and proceed with them, with as little delay as possible in the direction of River aux Isles de Bois to scout the country west as far as the Pembina range, and south as far as St. Joe.

Mr. P. Brolau was the chief or guide of the expedition.

Two carts were allowed to transport the provisions of each section of ten men.

The number of the men mounted were fifty.

One man was allowed for each cart, so that the whole force amounted to sixty or thereabout, officers and men.

Having received the necessary rations for 8 days' service, together with a few articles of equipment, &c., we proceeded to White Horse Plains, and camped at the crossing of the Assiniboine on Tuesday evening, the 10th.

The next day we crossed the upper branches of Stinking River and camped about 5 miles further west.

On the 12th, we arrived in the evening at Rivière Aux Isles de Bois, after a ride through a burnt prairie of about 35 miles.

There, according to the usage of war amongst the half-breeds when getting near the enemy, the men were administered the oath of allegiance, and duly warned to obey strictly the orders of their chief. On striking tents, an Indian was seen arriving from Pembina, and from whom we tried to elicit some information. His news was several days prior to our departure from the fort.

In the morning scouts were sent towards the mountain, and instructed to go as far as the line; another party was detached towards the Pembina river forty miles distant and two others to see where the force could find water and pasture for the horses on our way back.

We remained encamped the whole day.

On the 14th, the main body proceeded to the Tobacco River, some twelve miles from the River aux Isles de Bois, where we waited for the return of our scouts. They returned in the evening and reported everything quiet along the frontier, and in the different places where some danger could be apprehended.

Having so far discharged the object of the expedition, the force moved back on the 15th, and after a ride of more than 40 miles, came to camp on the Stinking River, which at a point some twenty miles below our former crossing of the same river.

Yesterday morning we made a direct line for the Red River, which we struck about noon near the Hon. Hamelin's residence, and after a little rest the whole body returned to the Fort early in the afternoon.

The men have behaved very well, and were rather eager to catch a sight of the Fenians; but none were to be seen.

The different articles of equipment, &c., have been duly returned yesterday afternoon.

Believe me, Sir, with much respect,
Your obedient servant,
JOSEPH ROYAL,
Captain.

LIEUT.-COL. W. O. SMITH'S REPORT ON THE
MANITOBA EXPEDITION OF 1871.

Winnipeg, Manitoba,
November, 23rd, 1871.

Sir,—I have the honor to report to you, that subsequent to my interview with you in Ottawa, relative to the Manitoba Expedition and in accordance with your instructions, I

left Montreal on the 16th October, and via St. Pauls, Minnesota, proceeded across the plains to Fort Garry, where I arrived on the 27th of the same month.

Here I informed His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, that the Dominion Militia on service in this Province was to be reinforced by the troops of the Expedition then en route via Thunder Bay.

Following your orders, I made such arrangements as were requisite for the transport and provisioning of the Expeditionary Force from the North West Angle of the Lake of the Woods to Fort Garry, also such provision as seemed necessary for barrack accommodation for the increased force here, and at the Stone Fort on the Red River.

As the winter season appeared to be setting in at an unprecedentedly early period, and as great danger of delay to the Expedition from ice appeared probable, I determined on reinforcing the corps of voyageurs, that might be accompanying the Expedition, by twenty experienced men who were engaged for the purpose, through the kind offices of Mr. Donald Smith, of the Hon. Hudson Bay Company, this reinforcement was subsequently found of much service.

After consultation with His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, and appreciating the necessity of using every effort to bring forward the troops at the earliest possible date, I considered it most expedient that I should proceed myself to meet the Expedition, and to superintend personally the arrangements for the preparation of camps, fuel, &c., for the troops on the way.

As the boats which I had been led to expect as available at the North West Angle, had been taken away by parties belonging to the Canadian Pacific Railway Survey, I had much difficulty in proceeding from that point.

I was, however, fortunate enough to find in the creek, a boat used in the Expedition of 1870 which, by temporary repairs, was made tolerably seaworthy. I also, at the North West Angle, met Mr. Graham, of the Public Works Department, who had been ordered by Mr. Dawson, on his receipt of information at Thunder Bay, of the despatch of troops, to proceed to Fort Garry to make those arrangements for their transport from the North West Angle, which my earlier arrival via the U. S. had anticipated.

In proceeding to meet the Expedition, we met with much delay and difficulty from the ice which seriously damaged our boat and canoe, and from gales of wind which prevailed on the Lake of the Woods.

Early on the morning of the 11th instant, after having been wind-bound on an island for two days, we were enabled to cross the Grand Traverse, and at the mouth of Rainy River met the Expedition, which had been delayed there, sheltering from the storm.

Returning with the force, and favored by a fair wind, we arrived on the same evening, at a point on the Lake about eighteen miles from the North West Angle—here, the ice, which on our outward trip we had been enabled with some difficulty to cut through, had formed so fast, that we were compelled to land on an islet and camp.

A furious gale which arose during the night, occasioning some small damage to the flotilla and one of the tugs, did us service in partially breaking up the ice, through which, though with much difficulty, we proceeded six miles further with the boats on the 12th instant, as far as the narrows, about twelve miles from the North West Angle. Here,

from the ice being fast taken and the severity of the weather increasing, it seemed evident to me, after consulting with Mr. Dawson that our boat service must cease. The troops were landed on an island, and the flotilla of boats and tug steamers drawn on land for winter quarters.

On the following day, having constructed hand-sleds, and leaving a small rear guard with some voyageurs in charge of the boats and heavier stores, we proceeded on the ice to the North West Angle. Here, the provisions and transport were waiting. The march, over newly formed ice, and in the teeth of a northern gale, with the thermometer low, was of a most trying character.

From the North West Angle, where we found the transport and provisions in readiness, the troops started on the 14th to Fort Garry, which place, after a march rendered severe from the cold, they reached at mid-day on the 18th instant.

I enclose to you, herewith, Captain Scott's report and diary, showing the daily progress of the Expedition.

Not only from the statement of that officer, but from my personal observation, during the few days I was with them on the march, I am enabled to report on the conduct of the troops as being worthy of the highest admiration. Officers and men seemed actuated by the same enthusiastic spirit of determination to push forward the Expedition to a speedy and successful issue.

From first to last the weather was of the most unfavorable nature; rain, snow, intense cold, and violent gales alternating in rapid succession, presented all obstacles that the commencement of a winter season in these high latitudes offers to the progress of troops.

It is a satisfaction to reflect that scarcely a month has elapsed between the issue of your orders for the organization of the force and its arrival at Fort Garry; especially when bearing in mind that a distinguished officer of H. M. Regular Forces, pronounced the route as being, in his opinion, impracticable to troops, after the middle of September, and that high ex. commiums have been passed on an expedition for accomplishing a march during the long and pleasant days of summer over the same ground which H. M. Dominion troops have now traversed during the brief daylight of an almost Arctic winter.

I feel I am conveying to you the sentiments of every officer and man in expressing the obligations due to Mr. Dawson—his great experience and the indefatigable exertions used by himself and his staff, among whom I take the liberty of mentioning Messrs. Graham, Towers, Sinclair, Burton, Arnoldi, and Whitcher, have contributed in the highest degree to the success of the Expedition.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
W. OSBORNE SMITH, Lt.-Col.,
D. A. G. Militia,
Commanding Military
District No. 10.

(To be concluded in our next.)

RIFLE MATCHES.

14TH BATTALION P. W. O. RIFLES.

Points.
Best shot in No. 1 Company, Ft. T. John-
son..... 33