

TO MARK OLD BATTLEGROUND

A 103-year-old eyewitness to the last major skirmish between Canadian troops and Indians helped to commemorate the event on June 29. Solomon Pritchard was prisoner of a band of Cree that battled a mixed force of troops and North-West Mounted Police at Frenchman Butte, Saskatchewan, during the rebellion of 1885.

Mr. Pritchard, who lives at Cando, Saskatchewan, unveiled a plaque erected on the battlefield by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. At the same ceremony, the National Resources Minister Arthur Laing announced the opening of Frenchman Butte National Historic Site.

The 18-acre site, recently acquired by Mr. Laing's department, still shows traces of the many rifle-pits dug by the Indians on the crest of a low hill.

LAST MAJOR FIGHT

The skirmish at Frenchman Butte was the last major engagement of the 1885 rebellion, which saw the half-starved Crees, incited by Louis Riel, take up arms against the reserve system. After killing nine settlers at Frog Lake, the Indians, led by Big Bear, were confronted on May 28 at Frenchman Butte by some 200 troops and police under Major-General T.B. Strange. General Strange tried unsuccessfully to dislodge the larger Indian force entrenched on the hill. The Indians retreated northward after he withdrew to await reinforcements from Battleford. Strange gave up the pursuit 12 days later; Big Bear finally surrendered voluntarily.

The Indians had captured Mr. Pritchard at Frog Lake with his father, other members of his family, two white women and several other Métis families.

Other witnesses, children at the time of the skirmish, represented Big Bear's Indians at the ceremony. School children from Frenchman Butte represented a "historama" depicting the encounter, and Indians from the nearby Onion Lake Reserve performed a war dance.

NOTED RECRUIT FOR NATIONAL BALLET

Daniel Seillier, former *maitre de ballet* and joint artistic director of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, will be joining the staff of the National Ballet School this autumn, according to Miss Betty Oliphant, the school's principal and director. Mr. Seillier will teach the senior male and female students and special classes in *pas de deux*. In addition to his duties at the school, he will also assume the position of dance professor with the National Ballet of Canada, where he will teach classes and coach the company.

CAREER

Mr. Seillier began his ballet career with six years of study at the Ballet School of the Paris Opera. Later he appeared at the Salle Pleyel in Paris with Zizi Jeanmaire and Roger Fenonjois and appeared with Roland Petit as *premier danseur* with Ballets de Paris. In 1951 he was engaged by the Marquis de Cuevas' International Ballet as first soloist. While

remaining a soloist, he was appointed *regisseur*, teacher and *repetiteur*. He received the honorary title of "Star Dancer" in 1957 and in the same year was appointed *maitre de ballet* by the Marquis de Cuevas for his company. In 1960, de Cuevas invited him to stage a ballet; he is one of the few members of this company ever to have had the privilege of choreographing. During the ten years he was with the de Cuevas company, he danced in many of the ballets and rehearsed all the repertoire of the company. In 1961, he went to Lisbon to form a ballet company at the request of the National Theatre of San Carlos.

Mr. Seillier came to Canada in 1963 to join the staff of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens. Since that time he has received many notable offers to return to Europe, but he prefers his new life in this country. He will bring his wife and two small sons to Toronto to take up permanent residence in September.

TRAINING FOR NATO BRIGADE

Sennelager, 35 miles northwest of Soest, Germany, is the centre of the first large-scale training concentration this summer of the 6,000-man 4th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group.

Nineteen units, travelling in 1,100 vehicles, are concentrating in the 250-square-mile brigade training area for three weeks of gruelling ground-warfare exercises. Sennelager will see several "firsts" this year: tactical employment of the brigade's newly-adopted ENTAC anti-tank missile company of the 3rd Battalion, Royal 22nd Regiment; a battery of 155-mm howitzers of the 2nd Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery; and five-ton, cargo-carrying vehicles attached to various brigade units.

Training includes field-firing exercises, with live ammunition, both day and night, with progression to company group exercises designed to practice units in infantry, armour and artillery co-operation.

ROLE OF SERVICE UNITS

Service units, without which the brigade could not operate, include RCASC, RCAMC, RCOG and RCEME detachments, which are taking part in the reconnaissance, movement, deployment and defensive exercises to fulfill their primary role of supporting armoured, artillery, engineer, signal and infantry units in the brigade.

Ideally suited to large troop concentrations, Sennelager has ranges permitting up to 2,500 men to fire simultaneously using all types of infantry small arms. The vast area of open country allows full scope for combined arms operations. An abandoned village, complete with mechanical "pop-up" and moving targets, is used to practise house-clearing techniques.

For two of the brigade infantry units this will be their final exercises in Germany before returning to Canada. The 2nd Battalion, Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada, and the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, are rotating between Camp Gagetown, New Brunswick, and London, Ontario.