

provisional government publicly proclaimed, and the countenance given the insurrection by the American people, the plundering of the English speaking portion of the population, the persecutions, imprisonment and banishment of Canadians, who were known to be loyal to their Queen, amongst whom was our present Lieut-Governor, the Hon. Dr. Scholze; and lastly, the foul and deliberate murder of Thomas Scott, an Ontario Orangeman, a brave, loyal and patriotic man, for no other known cause than an enthusiastic loyalty to his Queen and country, aroused such a feeling of intense excitement and indignation, the like of which Canada never before experienced, and that to such an extent, that had the Government showed any hesitancy, or the least dilly-dallying in sending a military expedition to Manitoba to punish the insurgents and restore order, their lease of office would not last twenty-four hours. Several of the county councils of Ontario were prepared to raise and equip corps at their own expense, and send them to Red River, should the Government, through Quebec influence show any desire to procrastinate.

The Government of Sir John A. Macdonald fully recognizing the situation, determined on the opening of navigation, to send a military expedition to Red River. General Lindsay arrived in Canada on the 5th of April, 1870, and immediately placed himself in communication with the Governor-General when the number and composition of the force was agreed upon. It was decided to send one battalion of the 60th rifles, a British regiment; one battalion of volunteers from Ontario, and one from Quebec. Each of the three battalions to be composed of about 300 officers and men. Officers were appointed, muster rolls were signed, medical examinations proceeded with, and early in May the volunteer corps were ordered to report to their commanding officer, Lieut. Colonel Jarvis, of the first Ontario Rifles, and Lieut. Colonel Cassault, of the Quebec Rifles, at the Crystal Palace, in the City of Toronto. The command of the expedition was given to Colonel Garnet Wolsley, a British officer of considerable experience, and although comparatively a young man, had distinguished himself on many a battlefield.

This appointment was well received throughout Canada, and showed the wisdom of General Lindsay, for it is admitted by all military men who had served under him (Wolsley) that no more efficient officer to command Canadian soldiers could be found. He had the happy faculty of treating Canadian volunteers, not as men who enlisted for a shilling a day, but as educated gentlemen, men who prompted by a spirit of loyalty and patriotism, quit their professions for a time, many resigning good positions in banks, law offices and corporations, to join the Red River expedition. Indeed, many who held high commissions in the regular army, and the volunteer force of Canada, were to be found enrolled as privates in the ranks. Col. Wolsley scarcely ever passed an officer or private in the discharge of his duty without a word of encouragement for him. It is hardly necessary to say that an order emanating from such a commanding officer ensured prompt obedience.

The Ontario battalion, reported at Toronto filled to a man, with applications to join from ten times the number required, but the Quebec battalion arrived with about 150 officers and men, or about half the number to complete the battalion. The balance was recruited from Toronto and vicinity. This will account partly for the preponderance of English speaking people in the Quebec battalion.

It was a most difficult thing to procure commissions in this force. It required a good deal of political influence to be appointed an officer of the Red River expedition. In the composition of the force Lieut. Colonels held commissions as ensigns, and vice versa. The writer being a few days behind the proper time in reporting, and indifferent as to whether he would join the expedition or not, it was rumored that his place would be vacant on the force. When he reported at headquarters in Toronto, on 9th May, there were no less than six officers of high rank waiting to drop into his shoes. The way that some of these gentlemen acted was amusing. After dinner at the American hotel, he was interviewed by them one after the other, and told of the great dangers and difficulties to be surmounted on land and water, and through intermin-