

up about this chosen site, and notwithstanding the superior numbers and great bravery of the attacking forces, the Crow cavaliers particularly distinguished themselves in headlong charges. After a seven days' fight the invaders drew off, baffled if not beaten by the defence and took the home trail unpursued by the Blackfeet but harassed by famine.

At a critical point in the assault, Hugh Munro and my father were asked to come to the rescue, and took the opportunity to display to the plainsmen of the Saskatchewan the warlike character of the Highlanders of Scotland. With abundant ammunition for their flintlocks, they mowed down the bold attackers, armed only with bow and spear. For their distinguished conduct they were elevated to the rank of war chiefs of the allied tribes—the name given my father being "Mic-sic-e-me"—meaning big water—but I do not know how it applied.

At the end of the three years for which they had volunteered, the young Highlanders returned to Edmonton, having mastered the Blackfeet tongue and acquired a knowledge of their character and customs, besides the big influence of elected war chiefs. The allied tribes became good hunters for the Hudson's Bay Company and frequently visited Edmonton to trade with them.

In 1824 the united H.B. & N.W. Companies established a post, named "Bow Fort," near the present Morleyville site. I saw the remains of its chimneys in 1858, when with Dr. Hector of the Palliser expedition. Mr. John Edward Harriott, Colin Fraser, "Jimmie Jock" Bird, Hugh Munro and my father went to establish it. The Indians regarded it as an intrusion, became troublesome and dangerous, so it was abandoned in two years' time, when the Indians at once burned the buildings.

Meanwhile the Crees, who were better warriors or better armed than the Blackfeet and were gradually invading the latter's "sphere of influence," had rendered Edmonton unsafe as a place of resort, so the Rocky Mountain House, on the headwaters of the North Saskatchewan, became the trading post for the Blackfeet, as well as for the tribe of the Rocky Mountain Assinaboines, for whom it had been established. My father, after the retirement from Bow Fort, remained some years trading at Rocky Mountain House, except during the boating season when he steered a boat to and from York Factory, being like his kinsman McKay, father of late James of Deer Lodge, one of the best boatmen on the river. Besides being a "good all round man," he was specially gifted in the mastery of languages, speaking, besides his native Gaelic, English, French, Peigan, Cree and Assinaboine.

At Edmonton my father married my mother, a very pretty girl of French parentage, her family being Beaudry, who were related to that of Gaudry and Chatelaine. In 1834 he retired from the Hudson's Bay Company's service at Edmonton to Red River Settlement, where he was entitled by his first contract with the company in 1805 to a grant of land free. He located his claim at St. Andrews for 100 acres, bought other land besides, and settled down to fulfil his long harbored desire to bring up his family in a civilized settlement. I was the first of his children to be born in Red River Settlement.

My best school teacher was Donald Gunn of Little Britain, for whose ability I have the greatest admiration. I am indebted to the grounding he gave me for all I have subsequently been able to teach myself in addition. My first employment off my father's farm was with the Canadian exploring of Dawson's Sound in 1857. I was with the British Government's exploring expedition, Capt. Palliser and Dr. Hector in their explorations for the British Government in 1858-59. In 1859 I went with the Earl of Southesk's hunting party from Fort Garry to the place now known as Banff, thence by way of Jasper House to Edmonton, and returned by Fort Pelly in the fall.

In 1862, having been recommended as a traveller by Lord Southesk to his brother-in-law, Lord Dunmore, I accompanied the latter and his brother officers in the Scots Fusilier Guards, Capt.

Cooper, Colonel Cooper and Captain Thynne, of the Grenadier Guards on a hunting trip from Fort Garry to Cypress Hills and back. Thence they went to Devil's Lake, Abercrombie and St. Cloud on the way to Montreal. In December I followed them, taking a dog train down to Montreal, where our performances created much interest.

Talking about dog trains, I was quite a runner in my day. Once I left Fort Garry at 1 p.m. and reached Pembina at 9 that same day (65 miles). John Monkman and I went from Fort Garry to Crow-wing (400 miles) in six days. I started from Rocky Mountain House and camped at west end of Gull Lake and reached Edmonton next day. Made the run from Lac Ste Anne to Fort Edmonton between 7 a.m. and 12 noon. Went from Edmonton to Victoria and

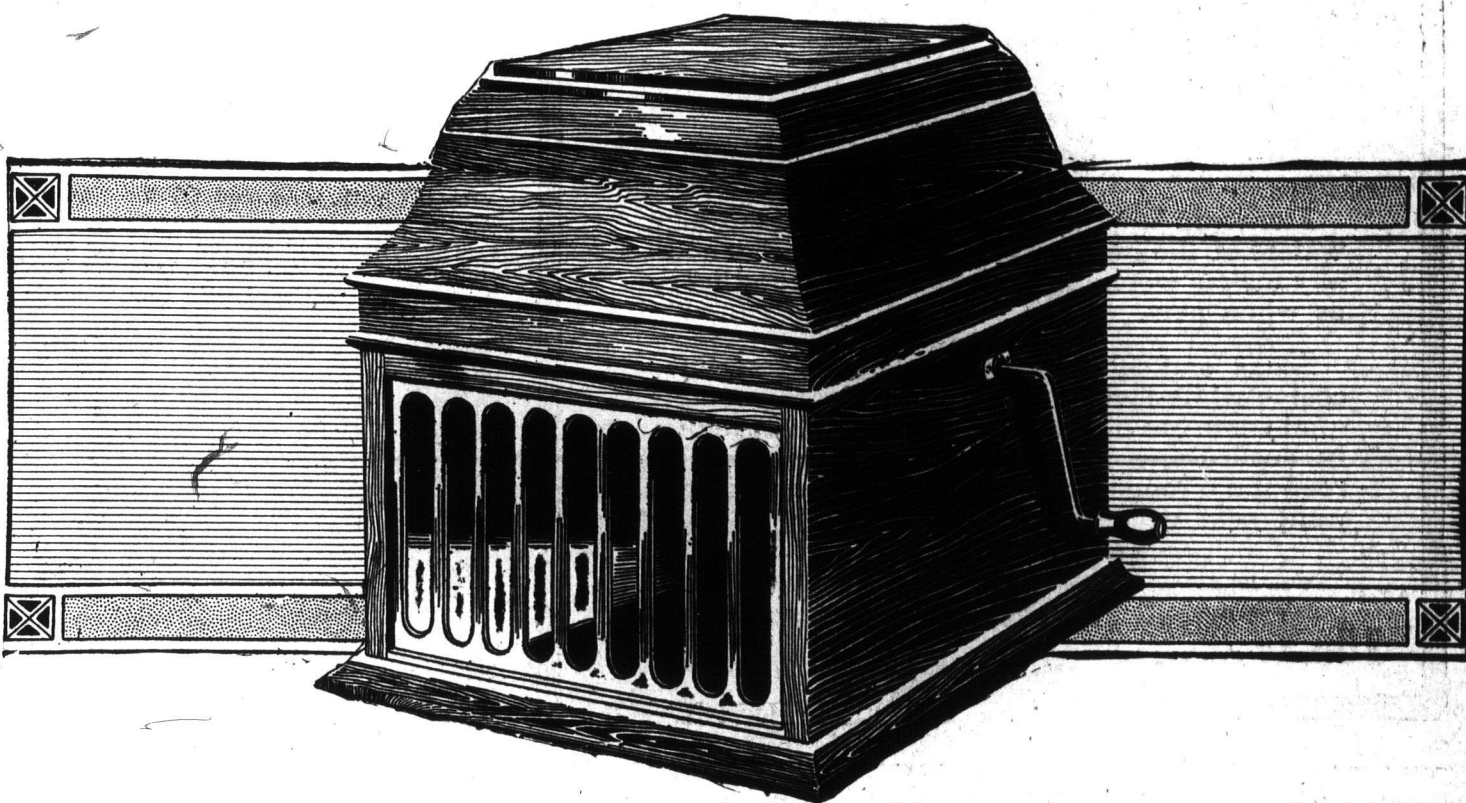
returned in two days. Came from Brazeau's second camp on McLeod to Ste Anne Lake, 100 miles, in one day. I never felt tired those days.

In 1862 I was in Montreal with Lord Dunmore and went up west that summer with Captains Lake and Devenport, of the Rifle Brigade, then stationed at Hamilton. From Fort Garry we were accompanied by the Italians, Count Castiglione, Maggiore and Major Vecchi, and we travelled by way of Fort Ellice, Touchwood Hills and the present site of Saskatoon. We struck southwest and crossed the Red Deer River at Hand Hills and came to Bow River at the mouth of High River, where there was the largest camp of Indians that I had ever seen—Blackfeet, Bloods and Peigans. They came like a flood, spilling down the hill to us on the flats and

camped all around us. It was alarming, but we managed to make friends with them and they gave us two Peigan guides who soon deserted us, however.

Ay-cap-po, otherwise Ezidore Dumas (father of Gabriel, who became known to the outside world during the Saskatchewan rebellion), one Virmette, A. Vandal (who was killed at Duck Lake, 1885), Larocque, Berard, Baptiste Shitack, Baptiste Boyer, Bob Taylor, Smith (Ay-cappo's son-in-law) and Joseph McKay composed our party. The notorious Jean L'Hiroux was with the Peigans at that time.

We went across the mountains through the Kootenay Pass and through the Tobacco Plains down to Fort Colville, thence to Wala-wala, and by boat down the Dalles to Astoria. We came back the same way to Fort Colville, where I



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