

racks, under the command of Col. John Robinson. A battalion was also organized in Carleton County, many of the men having seen active service and capable as instructors.

Pickets and outposts were established and in a short time a fine body of men paraded on the ice of the Meduxnakic, at Woodstock, and were addressed in glowing terms by the gallant Col. Maxwell.

The York and Carleton Cavalry acted as videttes in carrying despatches between Fredericton and St. Basil in Madawaska, at which latter place was stationed the gallant 11th Regiment under the command of Col. Goldie.

The sister Province of Nova Scotia loyally offered substantial aid in men and money, and all seemed to augur well for our success in repelling an invasion of our territory. In the meantime a fort ("Fort Fairfield") was erected by the Yankees on the "Aroostook river," six miles from the river St. John. Adventurers flocked into Canada from the United States to aid in the rebellion, and war seemed imminent.

Troops now began to arrive from England, and it being midwinter were conveyed to Canada via St. John, Fredericton and Woodstock on sleds.

But in the midst of all this came ominous whisperings of the British Government consenting to a commission; a word which, read in our day in the light of American jurisprudence, means, "Come into my parlor," etc.

Lord Ashburton was soon rolled up in an inextricable web by a master of subtle diplomacy, Webster, and thereby hangs the tale of our being permitted to look *over the line* at the flourishing towns and villages erected upon truly British soil, from a capital of \$15,000,000 in timber and land filched from the rightful owner. To this add a later experience of \$5,000,000 in excess of "Alabama" claims, of which round sum Canadians may well make a note "to be accounted for."

We have now in London a Canadian official to look after our rights, "Behring Sea" or any other, and as an old time Woodstock Hibernian petty Judge once said, "If the Court knows herself—and she thinks she do—we'll have no more of this nonsense."

A barracks and garrison of troops had now been established at Houlton, 12 miles from Woodstock, and a military road cut through Maine to the boundary line 10 miles from Woodstock. The acquisition of this new territory advanced the American boundary line, at some points, very close to the St. John river, viz., at the lower line of Carleton County—Eel river—13½ miles, and at its upper line—by the erection of Victoria County in 1844—River de Chute—three miles.

After a review of Captain Baird's Rifle Company, Woodstock, Sept. 4th, 1862, by the Lieut.-Governor, Hon. Arthur Hamilton Gordon, he said: "He had recently inspected volunteer companies in other parts of the Province, but he had not regarded them with the same interest that he regarded volunteers in this district. Should any difficulty arise, as they might well fancy, they would have to bear the first brunt of the battle."

THE TRENT AFFAIR.

Twenty-three years having elapsed, England and the United States are again on the verge of war. The Southern States are in rebellion, and in Nov. 1861, two Southern gentlemen were seized and taken by force from an English vessel, the "Trent" sailing under British colours, by United States officers of the "San Jacinto" a United States man-of-war and conveyed to Boston where they were incarcerated in a prison.

England, tenacious of her rights upon the high seas, could not permit so gross an insult to her flag to pass unchallenged, and sent an immediate and peremptory demand for the liberation of the Southerners. This demand was supported by the shipment of picked corps of the British army for Canada.

A large number of thoroughly trained instructors were also sent for the purpose of drilling the Militia in the different Provinces.

To other than New Brunswick teamsters the unusually deep and drifted snow might have presented an insuperable obstacle; but they were conveyed rapidly, and being well-clothed by the Government in warm sheep-skin coats, comfortably to their destination. Woodstock was a gay place during the transit; and the frosty air gave a vim to the pibroch of the hardy Highland soldier.

FIRST CAMP OF INSTRUCTION—28 DAYS.

In July, 1865, a body of men, numbering 900, were assembled in camp at Fredericton, composed of contingents from various counties in the Province; it was called the "Service Militia" and divided into two battalions for "Drill and Exercise."

They were men of good moral character, of fine physique taken chiefly from the rural districts, and at the end of 28 days had made marvelous progress in drill. Carleton County was well represented in officers and men, and the influence of this camp was felt for many years throughout the Province.

FENIAN SCARE.

In the fall of 1865 rumours were rife that a large number of Irish in the United States were organizing for a raid upon the British Provinces. His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor visited Woodstock and gave authority to organize in Carleton County a force "For the protection of life and property against raiders and incendiaries crossing the frontier during the present winter."

Ten companies were organized with but little delay under the command of competent officers, and weekly drills maintained at the several company headquarters during the winter.

On the 26th June in the year following, 1866, H. E. made an inspection of the force at Woodstock, and from his report in a letter dated "Torryburn, near St. John, 2nd July, 1866" (See Militia Report, N. B., 1866), addressed to the "Secretary of State for the Colonies," I extract as follows:

Sec. IV. "In addition to the militia forces permanently embodied, companies of militia, under the name of 'Home Guards,' have been formed, who, though not under pay nor abandoning their usual avocations have devoted a certain portion of every week to drill and military exercises, and who would have largely added to the number of trained men in time of need. I was present at a muster of a body of this description in connection with the 1st Battalion Carleton County Militia, held a few days ago at Woodstock."

At a very trifling expense a body of four hundred men had been drilled, at least as well as an ordinary volunteer company and taught to perform battalion movements with considerable steadiness and precision.

The men of the force had, at their own cost, provided themselves with rough uniforms of scarlet flannel and caps, and presented in all respects an appearance most creditable to themselves and to Lieut.-Col. Baird, the commanding officer of the battalion. I am, &c.,

(Signed,)

ARTHUR H. GORDON."

We had now (1868) arrived at a period when by an aggregation of intelligent atoms, these British Provinces must become a political unit. Politically, commercially, or socially, everything seemed favourable to their prosperity.

The history of the St. John river, its population and geographical position considered, could, up to the date of Confederation, be none other than a military history. Carleton County, especially, must ever be a place of considerable importance. Its present area, after several subdivisions, is 700,000 acres, and its population about 27,000. Its form is triangular, and is divided longitudinally by the river St. John. Its westerly line extends 43 miles on the American boundary, and Woodstock is rapidly increasing as a railway depot or distributing centre. On the broad St. John floats annually lumber to the value of millions of dollars; and the fruit, stock and products of the County have a more than provincial fame.

Its people are shrewd, intelligent, industrious, and loyal to their country and Sovereign; and it is not surprising that since the organization of the 67th Battalion Carleton Light Infantry, Sept. 10, 1869, it has maintained its efficiency in drill, and for number one of the strongest in the Dominion.

All the officers, past or present, in command of the 1st Battalion Carleton Militia, or the 67th Battalion Carleton Light Infantry, were born on the St. John river, in York, Carleton or Sheffield; understood well the character of the country and genius of its people,—and by their zeal and devotion to the service have done much to inspire the military spirit pervading all ranks under their command.

The services of the officer authorized to organize and command the 67th Battalion C. L. Infantry, Lieut.-Colonel W. I. Baird, are as follows:—

1837-8—Volunteer Fredericton Rifle Co., American boundary, Canadian Rebellion.