

out by the two able commanders.

While inspecting some wagons we were going to hire for our transport, I was shown a comortable sort of covered ambulance with two fine large mules, which rejoiced in the names respectively of "Dewdney" and "Reid," after the Lt. Governor and his secretary, and was informed by one of my staff that this affair was meant for my use on the march. Much amused at the idea, I assured my informant that I intended to ride or march, and unless ill or wounded should certainly not trouble "Dewdney" and "Reid" to drag me about.

A Captain French, who had been in the Irish Militia, brother of a distinguished artillery officer, came to me during the day and offered to raise a small party of scouts from among the settlers in the neighbourhood of Fort Qu'Appelle. He had lately been an officer in the mounted police, in which force he bore a very high character for intelligenence and pluck, and had not long left it for the purpose of marrying and settling in the Qu'Appelle valley. He was naturally well acquainted with the Indians and the country, and as I knew that Bouton could not be with me for some days, I accepted his offer, and authorised him to raise at once 20 or 30 men from among the settlers of the neighbourhood, the men to receive five dollars a day and find their own horses. French succeeded in getting together a very first-rate party of about 30 men, well mounted and armed with repeating Winchesters, in three or four days, and joined me at Fort Qu'Appelle. There were several men of good birth among this party, among them being the Hon. M. Gifford and Hon. E. Fiennes, and the whole of them did good service, French, Gifford and Fiennes being especially useful and hard-working. The two latter were principally used by Lord Melgund and myself as orderly officers, sometimes riding long distances by themselves at great personal risk.

We had a good deal of telegraphing during the day, which was cold and raw, a great deal of snow falling.

A great many reports were rife about the Indians rising, and about the strength of the half-breeds under Riel. I may say here, that during the whole campaign I was constantly receiving from different parts of the country most alarming reports, some of them coupled with pitiful requests for troops, or arms and ammunition. A great many of these reports were exaggerated. At first I was rendered very uneasy, especially as it would have required at least 5,000 men, and the same number of arms with ammunition to comply with their requests, but I soon began to find out that, at this crisis, exaggeration was a "prairie peculiarity," and at last I named these stories and reports "Nor'-Westers," and it came to be a joke in my force about "the General's horror of Nor'-Westers."

On the morning of the 30th March, I sent off, under command of Lt. Colonel Houghton, a wing of the 90th Regiment, 145 strong, and one nine-pound gun, and 25 men of the battery to Fort Qu'Appelle, an old Hudson Bay post about 18 miles off on our road. As it was their first march, I sent two or three empty wagons with them, to give the men a lift occasionally. Captain Bedson drove me over to Fort Qu'Appelle that afternoon in a "buck-board," a peculiar sort of carriage, of simple construction, used in the country. I found the party had arrived quite fresh, though the marching had been heavy, owing to the slushy snow. The occasional lift in the carts had been very acceptable to the men.

Fort Qu'Appelle is really only a cluster of wooden buildings surrounded by a stockade, but a small town has grown up around it. It lies on a small river running through a broad valley with high land on each side of it. The river just here widens out into two or three small lakes, the scenery being very fine.

The place owes its name to a curious echo which the valley is said to possess.

Mr. Archie McDonald, the Hudson Bay factor there, entertained us at luncheon, and we made arrangements with him for the supply of 200 carts to be got in as soon as possible, and drove back to Qu'Appelle. Next day the weather was very bad, and it snowed hard, especially towards and during the night. Busy again with telegrams and preparations. I decided to leave Capt. Swinford at Qu'Appelle for the present, and appointed a Mr. Underwood—who had been an officer in our regular army—supply officer to the column, and a very good officer he proved to be. I also secured the services of a Major Bell, superintendent of the Bell Farm, near Qu'Appelle, who was of great assistance, and did good service throughout in procuring and forwarding carts and forage to the front. I heard from Ottawa that the following troops had left for the front: Royal Canadian Artillery, A and B Batteries (permanent), 13 officers, 213 N. C. O.'s and men, 27 horses, 4 guns; Infantry School Corps, C Company (permanent), 5 officers, 85 N. C. O.'s and men; 2nd Battalion (Queen's Own), 18 officers, 257 N. C. O.'s and men; 10th Battalion (Royal Grenadiers), 71 officers, 250 N. C. O.'s and men.

These troops were coming up by Canadian Pacific Railway, though there were still unfinished gaps in the line to the east of Port Arthur; but it was thought better, as a matter of policy, to use our own line, as it undoubtedly was, though the troops had to cross those gaps under great difficulties, both of ground and weather. An extract from the report to me of Lt. Colonel Montizambert, commanding the artillery on this march, will give an idea of these difficulties and hardships which were so cheerfully borne by these citizen soldiers, both infantry and artillery:—

"Here began the difficulties of passing the gaps on the unconstructed portion of the road. About 400 miles between the west end of the track and Red Rock or Nepegon, 66 miles from Port Arthur, had to be passed by a constantly varying process of embarking and disembarking guns and stores from flat cars to country team sleighs, and vice versa. There were 16 operations of this nature in cold weather and deep snow. On starting from the west end of the track on the night of the 30th March the roads were found so bad that it took the guns 17 hours to do the distance (30 miles) to Magpie camp. On from there to east end of the track by team sleighs and marching 25 miles further on, on flat cars (uncovered and open) 80 miles, with the thermometer at 50 deg. below zero. Heron Bay, Port Munro, McKellar's Bay, Jackfish, Isbester, McKaye's Harbour were passed by alternate flat cars on construction tracks; and, teaming in fearful weather round the north shore of Lake Superior, Nepegon or Red Rock was reached on the evening of the 3rd April. The men had had no sleep for four nights."

On the 31st March, which was a bitter cold day, with heavy snow towards the evening, I devoted myself to organizing and telegraphing, and on the 1st April, to my great satisfaction, Lord Melgund arrived from the East. He was an old Guardsman, and as I knew, had been lately serving with mounted infantry in the field. I had telegraphed to him to say I should be glad if he would join me, if his Excellency Lord Lansdowne could spare him for a time from his duties as Military Secretary. His Excellency most kindly and thoughtfully did spare him, and I received the most cheerful and valuable support and assistance from Lord Melgund (now the Earl of Minto) during the whole time he was with me. I observed on that morning several strangers in the little hotel, and was soon enlightened as to their business. They were newspaper correspondents, four being

Canadian, and one a Yankee. As regards them and their after proceedings, I may say here that the Canadians were anxious to do, and did do, their work honestly and fairly according to their lights, with one exception, though I was obliged to send him away from my camp. The Yankee reporter was all right at first, but latterly fell off and got rather wild in his statements. They were all more or less handicapped by the novelty of their positions as war correspondents, and when I was obliged to decline confiding all my information and intentions to them, they were more or less inclined to attribute it to my not knowing myself what I was going to do! I must, however, except one of the Canadians, a Mr. Chambers, whom I always found to be reasonable and satisfied with what I could tell him. Later on we were joined by the well-known Mr. Henty, as correspondent of the Standard, which was the only English paper that condescended to send a war correspondent to us; however, we could not have had a better representative of the English press.

During this and the following day, I received rather alarming news from Battleford, the mounted police officer in command there being evidently a pessimist, and from what I could gather I did not believe Battleford was in such danger as he described, but I telegraphed to Lt. Col. Herchmer, at Regina, to hurry on to Battleford with his party of mounted police and one mountain gun.

The next day, the 2nd, I left Qu'Appelle at 8.30 a. m. with the other wing of the 90th, and the other gun of the battery, and arrived at Fort Qu'Appelle at 12.15 p. m. after a longish and sloppy march owing to the melting snow, as it was a fine sunshiny day. The men in this case also were assisted by occasional lifts in wagons. They camped with the others, and my staff and self put up at the hospitable abode of Mr. McDonald, the Hudson Bay factor.

The next day, the 3rd, I had "my army" out early at blank cartridge firing, to see how our steeds would stand it, and found that they nearly all stood the firing well, chargers as well as draught horses. I then tried a little drill with the 90th, which they went through very well, considering they had had very little training of any sort, the regiment having been formed quite lately by Lt. Col. Kennedy, who had gone to Egypt with the Canadian boatmen, and of whose sad death by smallpox we were so soon to hear. After the drill was over I went down the ranks of the 90th, and questioned each man, and found that many of them had never fired a rifle, some even had never fired a weapon at all. This was not a cheerful look-out after receiving Lt. Col. Irvine's telegram to Mr. Dewdney, dwelling on the excellence of the shooting of the half-breeds, and that my force should be 1,500 strong, and another message from the same to the same, which one of my telegraphic operators intercepted, to the following effect: "Matters are in a very critical state—feel confident all Indians will join rebels if immediate steps are not taken; 1,500 men sufficient if immediately sent in, otherwise several thousand will be required. Teton Sioux roaming the country on the warpath," &c.

I ordered the regiment to parade for bull-practice in the afternoon, some of their men themselves making and putting up three movable targets with marker's butts in the meanwhile. I here discovered, in the handiness and capability of the men as workmen, a superiority in the Canadian militiamen over our regular soldiers.

To be Continued.