

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

BRIGADE CAMP AT BIRCH LAKE.

The sketch from which our frontpiece is produced reached us from a member of the expedition, under Col. Otter, which went in pursuit of Big Bear, and it presents a very picturesque scene. Even though the main object of the expedition was not accomplished, abundant results were obtained, as the brigade did not come back empty-handed, as they returned to Battleford with a full bag of hostiles. That the work they performed was no child's play may be gathered from the following extract from the *Globe* correspondent's letter:

"Tuesday, June 9.—Reveillé was sounded at 3:30 a.m. We got a hastily prepared breakfast, and were on the march at five, the "C" School of Infantry and the Guards leading, then the supply train and Queen's Own bringing up the rear. The marching at first was pleasant, the ground dry and nice, and up to seven o'clock we made good time. After that it grew very hot, and at nine o'clock the heat was intense, the sky was cloudless, the air still and hot, as if a furnace door had just been opened in front of us, throwing out its suffocating air. As we marched on our thirst grew great. No sloughs appeared to be on our trail, and to add to our discomfort the dust rose in smothering clouds, blackening the faces of the men and finding its way down their parched throats. No wonder that several men fell back on the transport waggons. We halted several times to rest, but it was a rest in the sun, and no water near. We had gone about thirteen miles when we first sighted a slough. This had an invigorating effect upon the men, and they braced up, and in a few minutes had the satisfaction of quenching their thirst with bad slough water. The march was continued about fifteen minutes longer, and a halt was made for four hours for dinner and to let the men rest to better prepare them for the afternoon march. The halt was made at 11:30. After dinner the men sought out shady spots amongst the clump of trees, near the slough at which we halted, and slept until four o'clock in the afternoon. At that time the advance sounded, and we fell into our places ready for a heavy afternoon's march. The day was still hot, and as we stood in the ranks two men dropped as if they had been shot, both from sunstroke. They were carried back to the ambulance wagon and the march continued. The afternoon's march was much more pleasant than that of the morning, water was more frequent, and many clumps of trees appeared on our trail. The men had also prepared themselves for the march, the tunics were thrown off and the accoutrements put on overshirts. This was rather hard on the shoulders, but we preferred a sore back to a sore head. We had gone about two miles when the Jackfish Creek was reached and we got orders to prepare to ford. This creek is about thirty feet wide, rapid, and about three feet deep at this point. Accordingly we stripped and crossed the stream in savage costume. This incident afforded a great deal of merriment. Some of the men slipped and fell with all their clothes and accoutrements into the water. Several boots and stockings were lost. The guns and waggons went down the creek a little and effected a crossing after a great deal of tugging, hauling, and swearing. After this the marching was rapid, and as the evening grew on we were going at a good rate, although tired; marching songs were sung, jokes flew around, and the men got so merry that they almost forgot the fatigue of the morning. About eight o'clock Jackfish Lake appeared, and at nine we were bivouacked on its banks. We had marched thirty miles.

"THE ALLIGATORS."

How the gallant 65th earned the soubriquet of the "Alligators" has been told by more than one of the press correspondents, and our illustration depicts but a very ordinary incident in the march to Cold Lake in pursuit of the peripatetic Big Bear. The *Mail's* correspondent, W. P. M., tells something about the "muskegs" encountered on that memorable expedition of Gen. Strange's brigade.

"These muskegs are passable to man. Horses, too, that live in a soft country, whose hoofs grow flat and broad as a plate, can easily cross, but weight-bearing or draught animals sink through the covering of spongy grass into the black mud below. There seems to be no hard ground beneath. The struggling horse beats the grassy crust into the mire, and becomes more and more helpless, and the only way to get him out is by unhitching or dismounting. Here and there the deep channel of some stream would cross the trail, with the usual border of mud and marsh, but through all the gun was successfully hauled."

It appears that the monotony of the way, generally a mere lane amid brushwood, with its frequent sloughs, and squashy muskeg and black mud, played havoc with the English troops. A stupor settled upon them, out of which they were only roused by an outburst of song from a company of the 65th. With a vivacity thoroughly French those gallant fellows preserved their merry heart and cheerfulness amid the discomforts of the tramp. The trail circled round Frog Lake, and was a continual repetition of the letter S as it wound

among many small lakes and sloughs. At one place the ridge followed was like an old railway embankment made across a marsh. Here and there, of course, the high land would be cut by the water way connection of these lakelets. At such places the water would be of considerable depth, and under that the soaked ground would allow the waggons to sink till the very hubs were beneath the water. Had there been good footing for the horses the difficulty would not have been so great. But often and often they sank, and fell helpless, their struggles only mixing them up with the harness. Then some one had to jump into the mire and unhitch the terrified brutes, fasten a long rope or chain to the wagon tongue, then with feet on firm ground the horses had power to drag the wagon out.

The following account of the order of march and of the severity of the work performed by the troops is specially interesting:

"The few Mounted Infantry remaining with us went first, then followed the Winnipeg Light Infantry. The gun with escort of police came next, followed by the 65th. The scout said the roads were so bad that the eleven miles would make two days' march, and in truth they were bad enough. It was a sight to see the six artillery horses literally tear the gun through the bogs. Some places were so soft that the saddle horses could barely struggle through unless led. Half the horses on the gun were not only mounted but carrying about a hundredweight of harness like the others. The weight they were dragging was more than thirty-five hundredweight. If for a moment they stopped in their rush through the quivering muskeg the danger was that the gun would sink beyond power of recovery. So at marshy stretches the order was "whip up." Then right and left the drivers would crack their black-snake whips, and shout to the horses. The great brutes would snort as they struggled through the treacherous mire with many a splutter; the harness would jingle, the bystanders cheer, and amid cries of "Bravo, well done," the cannon would be literally hauled through the mire to terra firma. Once this was impossible. There was fully a quarter of a mile of muskeg, and the horses had to give up not far from the end of it. The drivers' arms were weary with whipping, but the horses simply could not struggle farther. So in the marsh the gun was dismounted and unlimbered. The gun itself was hoisted into a wagon, the drag ropes manned by the lads of the 65th, ever ready and willing to help in such a case, and piece by piece the cannon and its carriage were brought ashore. No slight labor this, after days of forced marching."

ANNUAL INSPECTION OF 13TH BATT., A.M.

LIEUT.-COL. DENISON, Deputy Adjutant-General of No. 2 Military District, inspected the 13th Batt. in Drill Shed Park, Hamilton, on 24th ult. He was accompanied by Lieut.-Col. Milsom, Brigade Major, and Major Van Wagner, H.F.B., and Lieut. Bankier, H.F.B., as orderly officer. The field state showed 341 on parade, and the 13th looked smarter and better than it has done for many years past. Lieut.-Col. Skinner was in command, and the other officers present were Lieut.-Col. Gibson, M.P.P., Major Moore, Major McLaren, Major Armstrong, Paymaster; Major Mason, Quartermaster; Surgeons Ryall and Griffin; Captain Stuart, Adjutant; Captains Barnard, Adam, Zealand and Duggan; Lieutenants Coulson, Brown, Moore, Osborne, Gillespie, Mewburn, Tuckett, Watson, Ross, Gibson, Tidswell, Chapman and Cameron. The inspecting officer was received by the battalion in line with a "general salute," the band playing eight bars of a march. After arms had been shouldered the D.A.G. went down the lines inspecting each man, and several times expressed himself as greatly pleased with the smart appearance of the men and the cleanliness of the uniform and equipment. The battalion then wheeled into column and marched past, a movement by which the strength and steadiness of each company can be fairly judged. The two new companies did very well, and turned out in good strength.

A correspondent of the *Militia Gazette* makes the following comments on the after proceedings:—"As this battalion is about to represent the Canadian militia on an occasion of some importance, the above event has more than local interest. Much disappointment has been felt by the committee at the announcement that the Minister of Militia was unable to grant permission to the 13th Battalion of Hamilton to cross the border and participate in the military procession, in connection with the opening of Niagara Falls Park. The committee, however, had succeeded in securing the services of the band in undress uniform, when a telegram was received stating that the Minister had granted the necessary permission. The Thirteenth Battalion will therefore par-

ticipate in the parade, and with their band will form a prominent feature in the already long list of military display."

After the march past Colonel Denison departed from the usual custom of inspecting officers, and, instead of allowing the commanding officer to put his men through such movements as had been practised, he ordered the colonel and the other two field officers to perform such movements as he selected, and to give the instructions and explanations of the various formations, making it look more like an examination for a certificate than an inspection of a corps. The field officers acquitted themselves very well, performing movements and giving the explanations for them, which had not been practised very frequently of late. The inspecting officer was very short and caustic in the corrections he saw fit to make, and if the men of the regiment have as great a respect for their officers to-day as they had yesterday, it is not because Col. Denison obeyed that clause of the Queen's Regulations which forbids senior officers to reprimand or reprove officers or non-commissioned officers before their juniors. The inspection was the most thorough and severe through which the 13th has ever been put, and the company officers and men went through it so well that Col. Denison was compelled to praise the men for their steadiness and precision. At the conclusion he addressed the battalion, stating his pleasure at seeing the corps look so large, so well set up, and their steadiness under arms. He again transgressed the regulations above referred to by praising the men at the expense of the officers, and saying that more than two-thirds of the mistakes he noticed were made by the officers and not the men. While the D. A. G. was thus inspecting the six old companies, the two new ones were marched into the shed and mustered by the Brigade Major and put through a few simple movements, Col. Milsom expressing himself much pleased with them. The inspection was a private one, the public being excluded, as the grounds were too small to admit of spectators. About a dozen ladies, members of officers' families, were, however, present.

ARRIVAL OF THE PRESENTS FROM THE LADIES OF TORONTO.

It will be a matter of some satisfaction to the fair contributors of presents of good things for the troops at the front, popularly supposed to be perpetually confined to a diet of sugarless tea and hard tack, to witness the joy with which the arrival of this special freight was received in the camp of the Royal Grenadiers. What if some of the loaves of nice fresh bread made by the gentle hands of sweethearts and wives had become a trifle stale or a little bit moldy in the course of their several weeks journey by railway, steamboat, and team! What if the teamsters had held "high jinks" on the way over the liberal percentage which they consumed as perquisites! What, again, if the total cost of transport on a single carload aggregated the trifling sum of fifteen or sixteen thousand dollars! It was truly a "red letter day" in camp when the packages were distributed, and happy was he who found that a parcel was directed to himself. No matter whether it contained edibles, a smoking-cap, or a pair of slippers, he was the envied of his less favored comrades, ready, however, to make a liberal contribution to the men to which he belonged of anything good that there was to eat. The smoking-cap and slippers, however, to say nothing of the little pink notes which turned up occasionally in odd corners of parcels, were jealously reserved for individual enjoyment.

THE BATOCHE BAYONET CHARGE.

As regards the bayonet charge at Batoche, Capt. George H. Young, Gen. Middleton's brigade-major, who brought Riel to Regina, writes to the *Winnipeg Sun*, in explanation, as follows:—

"What I wished to convey to your reporter as my opinion, was that on the last day of the fight at Batoche I considered that the Midland and Grenadier regiments did splendidly; that in the charge they had the place of honor and of most danger.

"I represented to him that it would be but just that our city papers should prominently mention this fact, and not seem to credit our own regiment with all the honor of that day.

"During the three first days the 90th Battalion did its share of the work well, as it did on the last, only on the last day it was not the 90th's turn to take up the advanced line, and so, though our men did splendid work on each of the four days, the honor of commencing the charge that gave us the victory rests with the Midland Battalion, as led by Col. Williams, M.P., the Grenadiers, as led by Col. Grasett, the whole being specially led by Col. Straubensee, the infantry brigadier."

REPUDIATION OF DISLOYALTY.

At the commencement of the rebellion it was freely insinuated in some quarters that the Roman Catholic Church in this country was in sympathy with Riel and his cause, and that the missionaries of that Church in the North-West had encouraged and aided the rebellion. That such insinuations were unjust has since been freely proven by events that have transpired. The Rev. Father Leduc, of St. Albert, is justly indignant at the suspicion of disloyalty on the part of the priests in the North-West, and writes to the press as follows:

SIR,—I can scarcely give expression to the indignation which I feel on reading in the Ontario papers the speeches, sermons and letters credited to certain fanatical and bigoted persons, some of them, I regret to say, ministers of the Gospel, with regard to recent events in the North-West. These gentlemen do not hesitate to accuse our archbishop, Mgr. Taché, our bishop, Mgr. Grandin, and their missionaries of having instigated the revolt of the Metis, or at all events of having had a hand in it. As a missionary of twenty years' standing in the Territories, and as one of the vicars-general of St. Albert and *procureur des missions* for the diocese, I stand to-day to give the lie, with all the strength of my convictions and conscience, to the foul calumny thus hurled against us. So far from having instigated or sympathized with the rebellion, or of having aided it by act, word or deed, we have done all that mortal men in our position could do to avert it.

Two of our missionaries, Fathers Fafard and Marchand, have been horribly mutilated and murdered while endeavoring to save the lives of white settlers, women among them, at Frog Lake. Father Legoff, at Cold Lake, has been in danger of death for weeks past from the hostile Indians. He counselled, besought, and argued with them against taking up arms, and at last they carried him off a prisoner. Father Paquette, at Muskeg Lake, fifteen miles north of Carlton, had to flee for his life, so incensed were the rebels against him for endeavoring to thwart their plans at the outset of the rebellion. We do not know what has become of him, and are afraid that he has paid the penalty with his life. Father André, the superior of the district of Batoche, Duck Lake and Prince Albert, drew upon himself the enmity of Riel and his partisans by doing all in his power to crush the revolt in its first stage. Father Moulin, of Batoche's, was shot in the leg by the rebels, and afterwards kept a prisoner, with fathers Ourmond, Vegreville and Touze, in the rebel camp there, all because he and they did their best to prevent the insurrection. The reverend sisters of the Society of the Faithful Companions of Jesus, both at Batoche's and Prince Albert, have undergone an agony of physical and mental suffering since the end of March. At Calgary, Father Lacombe has exerted all his great influence to keep the six thousand Blackfeet quiet; and I do not hesitate to say that if his invaluable services had not been thus freely given, that powerful tribe would have gone on the war-path, and that would have been the signal for a general Indian uprising throughout the Territories. The country would have been lost. Father Scollen, at the Peace Hills and at Bear's Hill, between Edmonton and Calgary, has run the risk of death daily for ten weeks whilst keeping back the Indians of that district. The other day he saved the life of a Government courier at the imminent peril of his own.

Mgr. Grandin and Father Lestanc, at St. Albert (near Edmonton), have not ceased from the beginning to preach peace and to exert themselves in keeping the Metis of the district quiet. Thanks to their efforts a Metis corps has been formed there, which has rendered good service to the Government. As for myself I have incurred the lasting hostility of Riel's friends and abettors for having lost no opportunity of denouncing the rebellion and representing that man in his true light and character to those who have displayed sympathy for him and his cause. Father Cochin, of Battleford, has been for weeks a prisoner in Poundmaker's camp, and to his efforts in a large degree the white prisoners captured by that band owe their lives. The Sisters of Mercy at Lac la Biche have been compelled to take refuge for long weeks past on an island in the lake, simply because they, like the missionaries, set their faces from the first against unconstitutional proceedings, and afterwards, when blood had been shed, used every effort to deter Indians and Metis from joining the movement. Lastly seven of our mission churches and houses have been destroyed.

We have thus incurred loss of property, personal danger in every form, and death itself, all because we did our utmost as servants of God and loyal citizens of Canada to avert the horrors of this disastrous insurrection. Under these circumstances, I do protest that it is not only cruel, but unspeakably base, for persons who harbor hostility to our Church to seek to place upon us the brand of treason.

Yours, etc.,

H. LEDUC, O. M. I.,

Vic.-Gen. de St. Albert.

BIG BEAR and other prisoners captured with him at Fort Carlton, have been taken to Prince Albert for preliminary trial before Col. Irvine, who is expected to return from Green Lake to-morrow with his forces and the other prisoners captured. They will likely be sent for trial to Regina.