

encountered, where everything has to be transported on men's backs, and where—what with torrents, precipices and inhospitable mountains, densest underbrush and incessant rain—only a snail-like progress can be made. The Selkirk system consists of several parallel ranges, which send out transverse spurs enclosing deep valleys; and it is simply wonderful that among such a sea of interlaced mountains so good a Pass as the Rogers' should have been discovered. It deserves to be known for all time by the name of its discoverer, and on the same principle I would suggest that the Pass through the Gold Range should be called after Moberly, instead of by the meaningless title of the "Eagle Pass."

It may be asked how it was that the Indians did not know of the existence of the Rogers' Pass. The explanation is that the Indian travels either on horseback or in a canoe. He would rather go a hundred miles round the difficulties that huge fallen trees and dense underbrush present than cut his way through a mile or two with an axe; and the valleys of the Beaver and the Ille-cille-waut were choked with obstructions that he considered insurmountable.

G. M. GRANT.

### HESSIANS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR.\*

IN the American Revolutionary War of 1776, the royal forces consisted of English regular troops, the United Empire Loyalists, Indian allies, and German mercenaries principally from Hesse, and therefore generally known as Hessians. Of all these, probably the latter were looked upon with the greatest aversion by the rebels, and down to this day the term "Hessians" is one of reproach in the United States. Interest has been lately attracted to this subject by a work just published in New York by Edward J. Lowell, entitled "The Hessians and the other German Auxiliaries of Great Britain in the Revolutionary War."

In this work Mr. Lowell has given a most interesting and readable history of the organization and exploits of these troops, and his researches have brought to light much information not previously made public. The treaties made between the English Government and the various German princes whose troops were employed were of the most business-like character. It was a clear case of the bargain and sale of human blood at so much per head. A provision in one treaty deserves especial mention. It runs: "According to custom, three wounded men shall be reckoned as one killed, a man killed shall be paid for at the rate of levy money." It is said on the authority of the German historian, Kapp, that this blood money, amounting to \$35 a head, was pocketed by the German prince, and not by the family of the soldier.

The total number of German troops sent to America during the war amounted to 29,867. The total number returned was 17,313, leaving 12,554, who were either killed in action, or died of wounds or sickness, or deserted. While being recruited and organized, in Germany, the most careful precautions were necessary to prevent desertion, and they were detailed in the military regulations with minute precision. Although marched to the seaboard practically under guard, these soldiers, when they arrived in America, fought bravely, maintained good discipline, and rarely deserted. It is a curious fact that desertions were more numerous from the English troops, in proportion, than from the Hessians.

Mr. Lowell has written in a fair and impartial spirit, and his book will do much to relieve the Hessians from prejudices that exist in the United States against their memory. It is said that in the battle of Long Island, where the Hessians first met the rebels in action, they did not give quarter. Mr. Lowell says: "The fact that neither side could understand the other, may have tended to diminish the chance of surrender, and have contributed to swell the complaints that some of the Americans had treacherously attacked their captors after yielding." The same belief on the part of the Americans, that the Hessians gave no quarter, existed among the garrison of Fort Washington, which was captured by Knyphausen's column on the 16th November, 1776; the popular imagination had made fiends of the Hessians. Captain von Malsburg relates that when he entered the fortress he was surrounded by anxious officers, who expressed surprise at his affability, telling him they had not been led to expect such from a Hessian officer. After the defeat of Trenton, where a Hessian brigade under Colonel Rall was surprised and captured, the Hessian officers were treated with the greatest courtesy by the American commanders, Washington expressing his sympathy with them immediately after their surrender. The letters of the Hessian officers to their friends speak very kindly of Washington.

The Brunswick contingent under Baron Von Riedesel, nearly 4,000

strong, formed almost one-half of the army which set out in 1777, under General Burgoyne, to move by Lake Champlain and the Hudson to Albany. The work before us gives a most vivid and interesting account of this march and the subsequent surrender. The facts are mainly drawn from the narrative of the Baroness von Riedesel, who accompanied the army on its march, and was an eye-witness of the stirring events she relates. She is somewhat severe on General Burgoyne, and blames him for his conduct of the campaign. The Duke of Brunswick's action on hearing of the surrender of his contingent at Saratoga, was characteristic of the system of hiring troops. He insisted that the men surrendered should not be allowed to return to Germany lest they should be discontented and discourage others from enlisting. His commissioner writes: "Send these remnants to one of your islands in America, place them in Europe in one of your islands like the Isle of Wight." He did not intend to let the poor fellows come home.

As a history of the military operations, Mr. Lowell's book is very incomplete and defective, in fact it is not a military history. It is rather an account of the organization and fortunes of the Germans in America, and is full of anecdotes, and opinions of these strangers, written to their friends in Europe, and gives a striking picture of the kind of people they were, while their impressions of the United States and the American soldiers and citizens are most valuable and interesting. The bitter feeling engendered by the war is well illustrated by an anecdote related by Baroness von Riedesel. While travelling with the prisoners from near Boston to Virginia she spent one night at the house of a Colonel Howe, who had a pretty daughter about fourteen years old. "I was sitting," says the Baroness, "with her before a bright open fire. She looked at the coals and cried out: 'Oh! if I only had the King of England here! with what pleasure I would cut open his body, tear out his heart, cut it in pieces, lay it on these coals, and then eat it.'"

The following extract from Captain von Ewald's work shows a striking contrast between the British and American officers. "I was sometimes astonished when American baggage fell into our hands during that war to see how every wretched knapsack, in which were only a few shirts and a pair of torn breeches, would be filled up with military books, for instance the 'Instructions of the King of Prussia to his Generals,' 'Thielke's Field Engineer,' the partisans 'Jenny' and 'Grand Maison,' and other similar books, which had all been translated into English, came into my hands a hundred times through our soldiers." This was a true indication that the officers of this army studied the art of war while in camp, which was not the case with the opponents of the Americans, whose portmanteaus were rather filled with bags of hair powder, boxes of sweet-smelling pomatum, cards (instead of maps), and then often on top of all, some novels, or stage plays.

We can recommend this book as pleasant and instructive reading to all who take any interest in the history of this continent.

G. T. D.

### THE TORRENS SYSTEM OF LAND TRANSFER.

IT is now, we believe, exactly eight years ago since the introduction of the Torrens System of Land Transfer into this Province was first mooted in the press of this country. For a long time the proposition lay dormant, it was referred to by the Hon. Edward Blake, in a political speech, as a desirable amendment in the law, but, we believe, he was the only public man who made any public profession of his faith in the system, until the Hon. Mr. Mills, in 1878, introduced a bill into the Dominion Parliament or the purpose of applying the Torrens' system of land transfer to the North-West Territories. The Government, of which the Hon. Mr. Mills was a member, shortly afterwards suffered defeat at the polls, and, in the convulsions of that crisis, Mr. Mills' infant was forgotten, and perished, at all events it failed to elicit any paternal sympathy from the minister who succeeded Mr. Mills in office.

It was under these circumstances, when public opinion seemed absolutely stagnant on this important question, that some gentlemen in Toronto, determined to take the question up, and, by organized effort, endeavour to bring it into the sphere of practical politics.

In April, 1883, the Canada Land Law Amendment Association was formed, having for its principal object the introduction of the Torrens system of transfer, and also as a subsidiary measure the amendment of the law of succession to land, so as to assimilate it with that of personal estate. After a year's labour, the Association recently held its first annual meeting, and, on the whole, we think it may be congratulated on the success which has thus far attended its efforts. For one man that was cognizant of the nature of the Torrens system when the Association was started, it is safe to say there are now hundreds who have an intelligent knowledge of the

\* The Hessians and the other German auxiliaries of Great Britain in the Revolutionary War. By Edward J. Lowell, with maps and plans. New York: Harper & Brothers, Franklin Square, 1884. pp. 328.