

On the 10th of October this raid was reported at Ottawa, and next morning sensational headings about it decorated all the daily papers throughout the country. At that time there was no railroad nor telegraph within 300 miles of the frontier of Manitoba, and news travelled slowly, so that it was several days before full particulars reached Ottawa. On the 13th of October an Order in Council was passed that an expeditionary force of 200 volunteers should be sent at once to re-inforce the small garrison of 100 men then in Fort Garry. Three men from each battalion of volunteers were asked for.

One company of 100 men was enlisted in Quebec, and another of 103 in Ontario. Six days later, on October 19, this force, with about fifty voyageurs, rendezvoused at Collingwood, as detailed in the following pages. Though the government had reason to believe the backbone of the Fenian movement broken, these re-inforcements were sent as a precautionary measure, lest a few reckless men, assisted by dissatisfied French Half-breeds, might do some mischief. The inner facts were not published, however, till several years afterward, and we believed there was a strong probability that we would have fighting to do before the next summer.

When I published the diary I was a private soldier, subject to military discipline, and not free to criticise the officers. The arrangements for the comfort and welfare of the soldiers were as complete as could well be devised for such an expedition, and most of the officers did their best for the men under their charge, working with and planning for them, and showing their authority as little as possible. But two or three of them, and notably the ensign of my company, seemed so puffed up by their position that they not only avoided the slightest exertion on their own part but harshly and rudely treated the men who were unfortunately under their orders. Many of the non-coms and privates were the superiors in education and social standing of these officers, and some held commissions of higher rank in volunteer regiments.

JUSTUS A. GRIFFIN.

Hamilton, Ont., Aug., 1893.

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