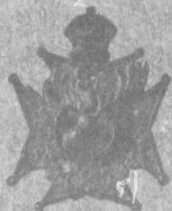


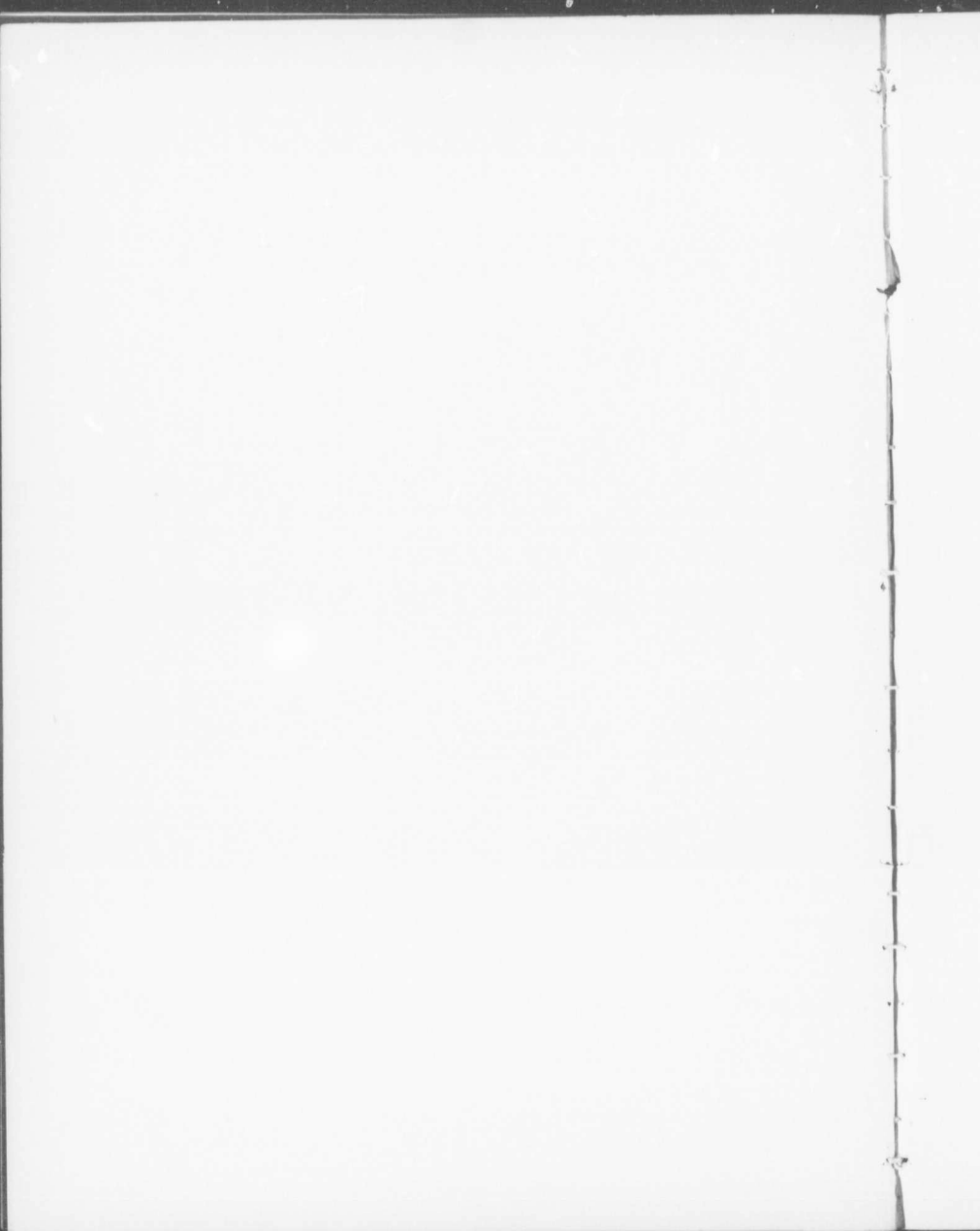
Rev. A. H. Capp.

9-B

WARRIORS
OF THE
Ojibway Country.

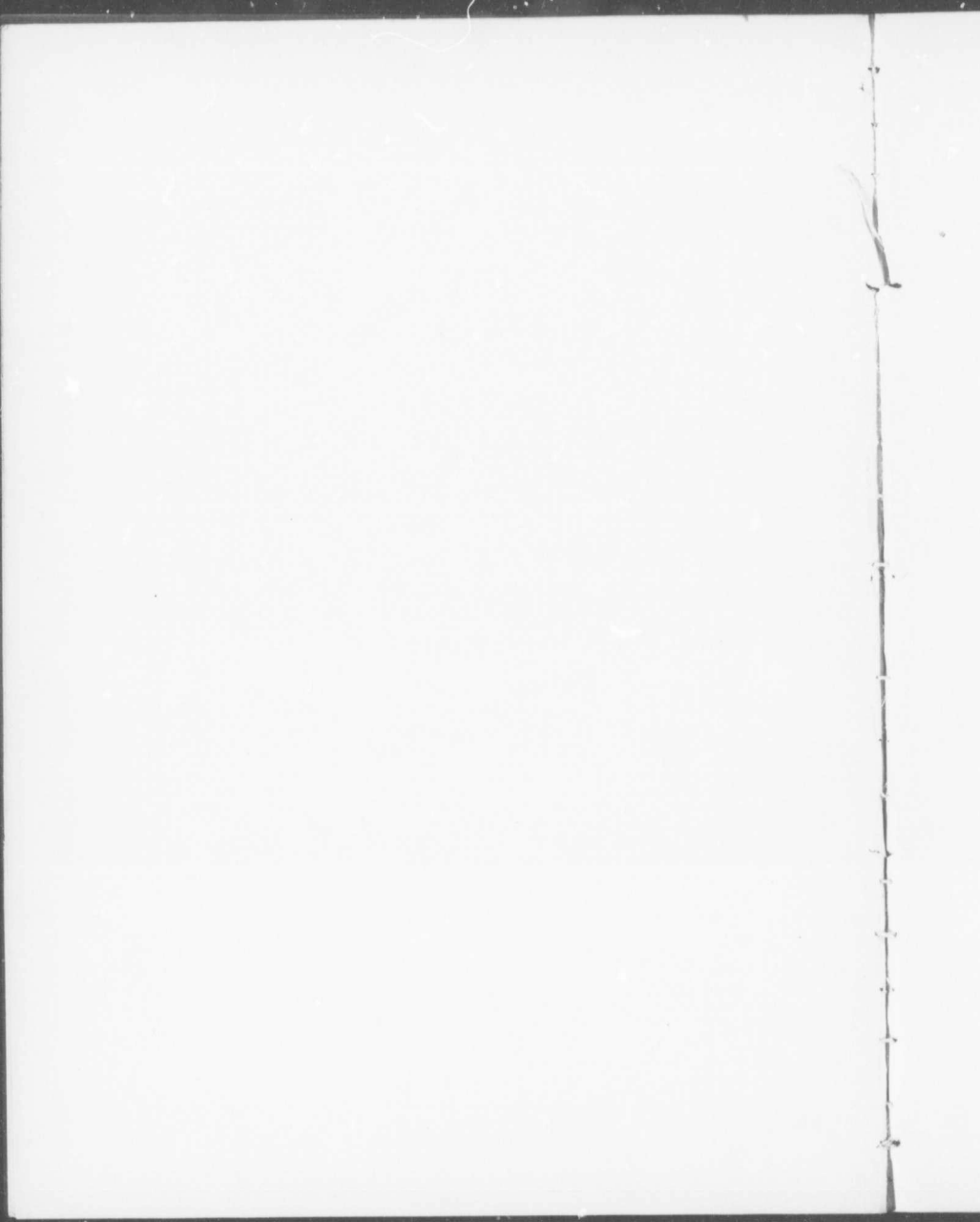


97TH REGIMENT
ALGONQUIN RIFLES
OF CANADA
1908.



9-13.

WARRIORS
of the
OJIBWAY COUNTRY.







LIEUT.-COLONEL T. H. ELLIOTT,
First Commanding Officer, 97th Regiment.

1900-1906.

64C

WARRIORS
OF THE
Ojibway Country.

By the Rev. A. C. Capp.

min to U.S.D. Feb 1509.



97TH REGIMENT
ALGONQUIN RIFLES
OF CANADA
1908.

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WARRIORS

OF THE

OJIBWAY COUNTRY

The troop train is rolling noisily through New Ontario's stretches bearing home again the Regiment from its annual camp ground and as each company's headquarters are reached, the men pour forth from the dusty cars to shout once more the regimental song and say adieux for another year; then those who are to continue the journey mount the steps and the train steams into the West.

Before Sault Sainte Marie, the last point, is reached and while voices and bugle notes still ring in our ears we will endeavour to recall the military story of the district which has given to our coming nation the 97th Regiment.

With the Bull Moose head as its crest and an Ojibway legend for its motto the Algonquin Rifles, for so is the battalion officially styled, bears testimony to the old time warriors over whose territory it now mounts guard.

It is indeed a far call back to the days



when the Braves stole through the thickets to attack their enemies of the Huron's Country under cover of the night and since those times other warriors serving hostile sovereigns and bearing opposing flags have paddled and sailed through New Ontario waters, have made its mountains echo with the roar of their guns and camped and starved and died along its shores. But sovereignty is at last, we believe, finally settled and those who don the rifle uniform and arm to oppose a common foe have now to travel many thousands of miles and engage in a war in the cause of Empire.

The country in the vicinity of No. 1. Company was the scene of constant military activity while on St. Joseph's Island are to be found the remains of an old fort which it was the intention of the British to supplant by one of much more considerable dimensions on Drummond Island at the mouth of St. Mary's River, Colonel McDouall having in 1815 laid the plans which, however, were not to be carried out.

It was in the 97th's territory that the Algonquins, driven to bay, faced the Dacotas on the west and the Iroquois on the east and if the stories could be recalled of those early days they would tell us of many a hard fight.

But almost all account of Indian battles has perished, only one being handed down by the old men of the tribe to the Missionaries from France who were among the first white men to visit the country.

In 1662 the age-old hatred between the Naudoways and Algonquins could be held in leash no longer and a war of extermination was decided on. All other activity was set aside for the time and the Ojibways gathered at Fon du Lac at the head of Lake Superior and embarking in their canoes paddled to Gros Cap whence three scouts were dispatched on a reconissance.

The Iroquois, for so were the Naudoways named, had meanwhile reached the St. Mary Rapids then known as Bow-a-ting and the scouts came upon them in the act of torturing some braves taken in the district. Retiring unobserved they made their way back to Gros Cap and reported what they had seen and the whole body prepared itself for battle and revenge.

Not suspecting the close proximity of their enemies, the Iroquois embarked in their canoes and paddled as far as the point nine miles west of the rapids, a point of land which was ever after to bear their name.

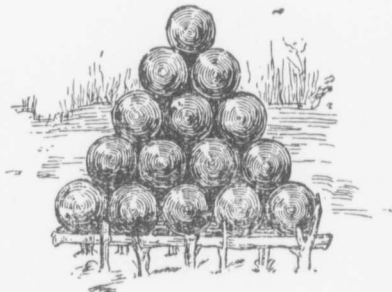




There they gave themselves over to a drunken orgy and as the debauchees succumbed to the fumes of liquor their wily foes having crossed the bay, fell upon them with war club and hatchet and so complete was the slaughter that with the dawn only two Iroquois remained alive. These were led into a circle of fire their ears and noses were stricken off as was the custom of the Braves and, half dead, they were placed in a canoe and sent back to their own country with the message that such would be the treatment meted out to all Naudoways who ventured into the Ojibway's land.

If the story of Indian campaigning is meagre, that of the French would fill many a page. From the days when Boeme of the Sault Ste. Marie Mission on the South Shore trained the cannon on the Sioux warriors, to the passing of Repentigny there was continual need for the exercise of arms. Sometimes white man against red and sometimes French and Ojibway facing the old hereditary foe as when in 1688 La Hontan with forty Ojibway braves fought his way through a party of Iroquois.

How the French fathered their allies is a story full of honour to the pioneers of the New World but the love of gold is often a stumbling block with nations as with individuals and as the years rolled on, the judicious distribution of money and gifts in kind won to the English the allegiance of those children of nature. In 1746 was placed on record the accounts of open hostility on the part of the Indians to their former friends among others being an attack on two canoe loads of Frenchmen at La Cloche, the murder of a trader at Grosse Isle and the killing of horses and cattle all along the line wherever the French were found so that a guard was kept constantly under arms to march on the shortest notice.



In 1748 Count Maurepas who was in charge of the colonies of New France wrote to his sovereign :

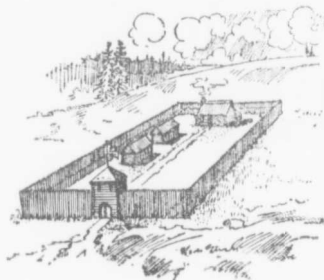
“ Voyageurs are robbed and maltreated
 “ at Sault Sainte Marie and elsewhere on
 “ Lake Superior in fact there appears to be
 “ no security any where”.



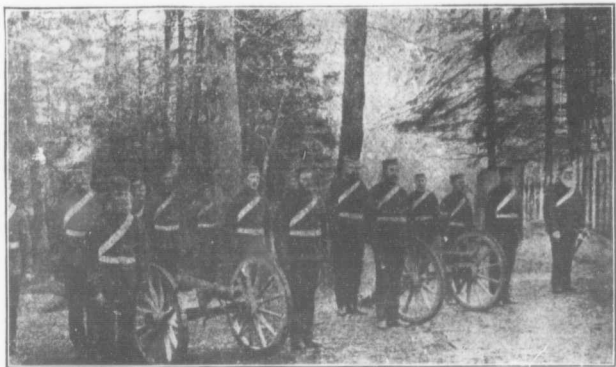
This condition of things could not be tolerated and so in 1750 a Canadian gentleman of distinguished parentage, Repentigny by name, was ordered to proceed to the St. Mary River and erect a fort at the foot of the Rapids.

At the very outset he met with treachery for the Chiefs, to whom he was not unknown, for he had visited the district in earlier years, were discovered by him to have in their possession a wampum or treaty belt given to them by the English which token they were secretly treasuring; but finally securing possession of the contentious object

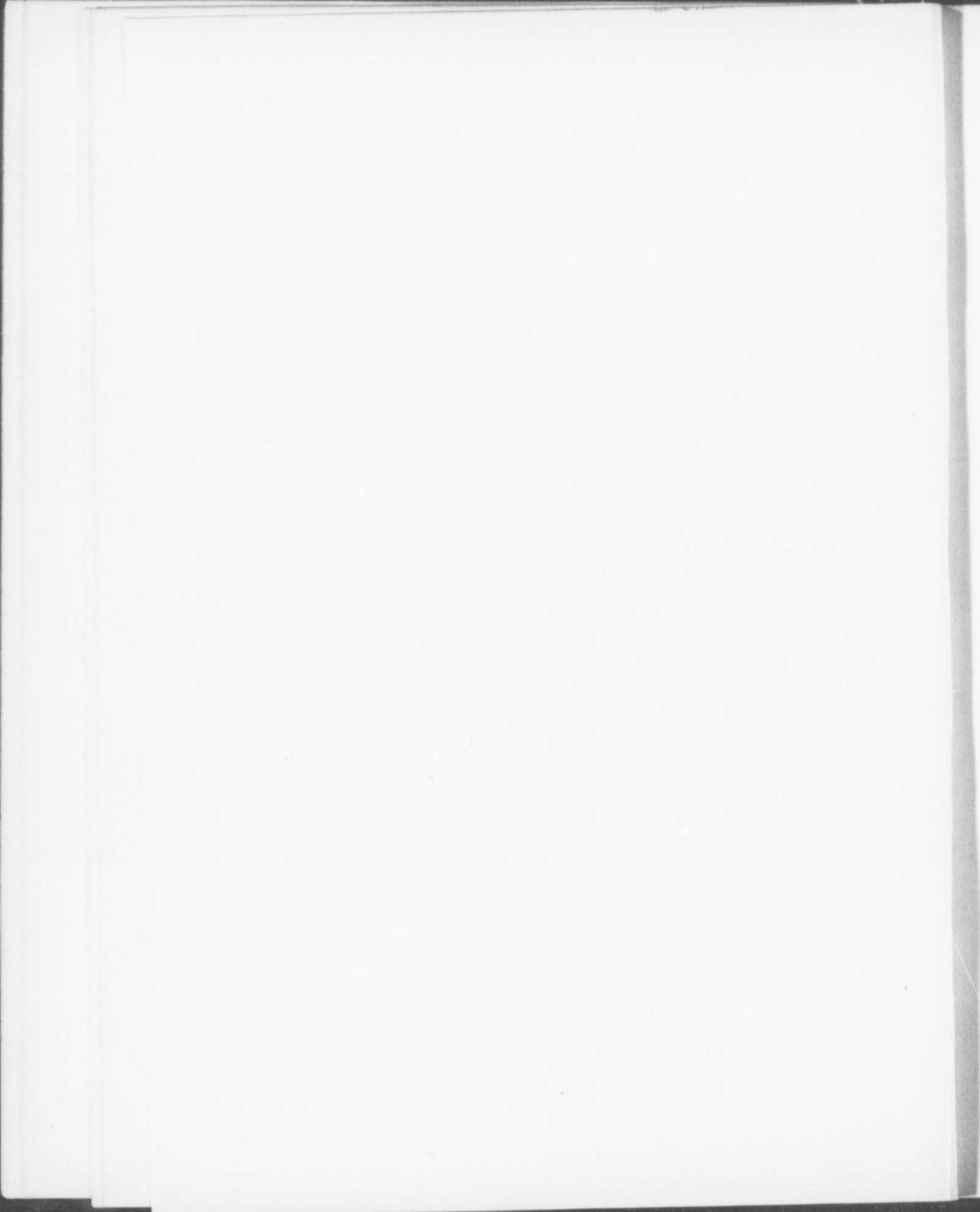
the Frenchman set about the preparation for the building of his fort.



It was the beginning of Fall when Repentigny arrived and although as early as October 10 the snow was a foot deep, he proceeded with the work of felling trees and making ready for the spring building.



THE FIRST VOLUNTEER COMPANY OF ALGOMA.
Major Wilson's Half Battery of Mountain Artillery.



Eleven hundred pickets, fifteen feet in length were made ready for the stockade and material assembled for erecting three houses.

The fort when completed was inclosed in a palisade with a redoubt of oak twelve feet square and reaching twelve feet above the centre gate.

Here the gallant Frenchman and his soldiery lived, policing most effectually the territory around about with no active hostility to face from the subdued Indians until in 1755 his sword was needed in the older settlements to oppose the oncoming English. The year 1756 found him back at the outpost directing his handful of settlers and soldiers but the following Spring he was again summoned eastward and leaving the fort in the care of a sergeant named Cadotte he journeyed away, attended by a body of redskins, never to return. With him went Ma-mong-se-da an Ojibway Chief who, changing his allegiance before the great battle at Quebec knelt at General Wolfe's head as he lay dying on the Plains of Abraham.

The late M. Frechette has told most graphically the story of Cadotte's vain watching and waiting for the return of his master *

* "Le Drapeau Fantome".



and of his refusal to surrender to the triumphant English.

Suffice it to say that the loyal sergeant did his duty nobly heartening natives and settlers alike till one day a flotilla of canoes was sighted coming up stream bearing a detachment of British soldiers under command of Lieutenant Jemette who landed and took

possession in the name of the King. The lilies of Brave France drooping from their staff were lowered after an ascendancy of ninety one years and the triple cross of Great Britain and Ireland was unfolded and flung to the breeze.

During his sojourn Repentigny had won back, by wise management, the loyalty of the Indians and for four years after the coming of the English were they constantly harrassed by their dusky foes whenever opportunity presented itself and in some cases the opportunity was made as in one short day, June 4 1763, when nine of the twelve forts between Detroit and the West were seized by the Redmen and their defenders massacred.

But the post at the "Soo" fell a prey long before this to another disaster.



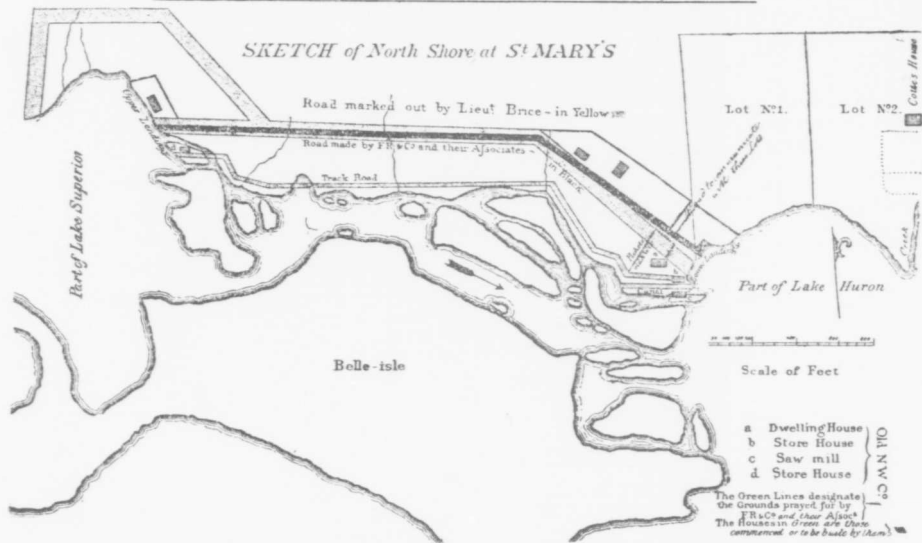
Jemette who seemed to be one of those old country people who refuse to be told anything failed to lay in a store of food for his garrison telling the natives who warned him to the contrary that there would be plenty of fish in the Rapids to supply them as their need demanded but with the breaking of Winter the fish, as usual, disappeared and he and his troops found themselves in dire peril from starvation.

To add to their distress, three days before Christmas, the fort caught afire and was destroyed, Jemette being saved by being pulled through his bedroom window. With the morning the question arose as to the disposition of the troops and it was finally decided to send the men to Michilimackinac whither the lieutenant also departed in a short time.

The year 1763 found the Indian Warriors divided in their allegiance some joining forces with Pontiac in the carrying out of his great conspiracy while a mere handful led by Alexander Henry journeyed to Detroit and placed themselves under the direction of the Commandant, Sir William Johnston.

From then till 1814 there was no fighting in the district. True, the Fur Companies regarded each other so belligerently that in spite





of the Government's action in granting Lord Selkirk's people land in Sault Sainte Marie he dared not take advantage but after a futile struggle left the field for a time to his rivals.

It was during this period that the lock, in some respects, of a military character, was built beside the Rapids.

The lock was 38 feet long and 8 feet 9 inches wide with the lower gate letting down by a windlass and the upper gates working with a sluice. The sides were held in place by vertical timbers tied together by horizontal pieces at the top and high enough for the batteaux to pass beneath them.

A leading trough of timber, framed and planked 300 feet long 8 feet 9 inches wide and six feet high supported and levelled on beams of cedar through the swamp, was constructed to conduct the water from the canal to the lock. The canal itself was 2580 feet long and beside the whole length of lock trough and canal, a roadway was cut 45 feet wide and there was laid a log towpath the full way, 12 feet wide, for oxen to track the boats. Whatever year after 1783 it was begun it was completed in 1798.

No record exists to show that the lock was ever used and it may have proved unsuccessful for its original purpose because of

History of the Province of Ontario, as far as the Rapids of the St. Lawrence, from 1783 to 1798, by Douglas-Brown, Montreal.

the great rush of water it was necessary to overcome.

The Americans of 1814 make no mention of it although they explored the shore above and below the Rapids so that it must have been filled in or forgotten.

Part of this old lock is now exposed to view through the generosity of Mr. F. H. Clergue.



In the early part of the Nineteenth Century Canada was to measure swords with the new born nation to the South and the scattered settlements of the North Channel were to feel the shock of arms.

With the reasons for the war we here have nothing to do suffice it to say that the North West Company's Post at Sault Sainte Marie was a base of supplies for the British troops and as such proved so great a factor in the Campaign that in 1814 Colonel Croghan sailing to attack Michilimackinac with a fleet of five vessels, the Niagara, Tigris, Scorpion, Caledonia and St. Lawrence, detached two of his ships under Major Holmes to intercept reinforcements from the Sault and to punish the Company and sack their stores. Two years previous to this, on the declaration of hostilities. Captain Roberts left St. Jo-

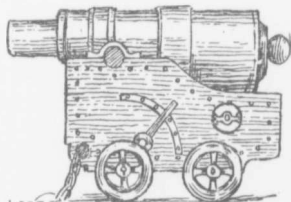
seph's Island with a detachment of regulars and two hundred voyageurs, the latter under the leadership of M. Toussaint Potheir and captured the American fort at Mackinac without firing a shot.

As Holmes sailed up the river, the first detachment from the Sault going to aid their brethren at Michilimackinac under the direction of John Johnston were made aware of his approach and avoiding the usual channel glided silently through what is known as the False Detour Passage and arrived safely at their destination.

The second detachment who were conveying cannon in their batteaux were not so successful but finding their course obstructed they threw the cannon into the river and beaching their boats took to the woods.

The enemy, on landing, immediately took possession of the N. W. Company's stores and having fired their buildings sailed away.

Lieutenant Turner the naval officer in charge of the American vessels detached for the expedition reported to Commodore Sinclair as follows:



“ U. S. Schooner *Scorpion* ,
Off Michilimaackinae ,
July 28th , 1814.

“ Sir: I have the honor to inform you,
“ that agreeable to your orders of the 22nd in-
“ stant, I proceeded on the expedition to Lake
“ Superior with the launches. I rowed night
“ and day; but having a distance of sixty
“ miles, against a strong current, information
“ had reached the enemy at St. Mary's of
“ our approach about two hours before I ar-
“ rived at the place, carried by Indians in
“ their light canoes; several of whom I
“ chased, and by firing on them, killed some
“ and prevented their purposes; some I cap-
“ tured and kept prisoners until my arrival,
“ others escaped. The force under Major Hol-
“ mes prevented anything like resistance at
“ the fort, the enemy with their Indians,
“ carrying with them all the light valuable
“ articles, peltry, clothes, etc. I proceeded
“ across the strait of Lake Superior without
“ a moment's delay; and on my appearance,
“ the enemy, finding they could not get off
“ with the vessel I was in quest of, set fire to
“ her in several places, scuttled, and left her.
“ I succeeded in boarding her, and by consi-
“ derable exertions extinguished the flames,

and secured her from sinking. I then strip-
ped her and prepared for getting her down
the falls. Adverse winds prevented my at-
tempting the falls until the 26th, when
every possible effort was used, but I am
sorry to say without success, to get her
over in safety. The fall in three-quarters of
a mile is forty-five feet, and the channel
very rocky; the current runs from twenty
to thirty knots, and in one place there is a
perpendicular leap of ten feet between three
rocks; here she bilged, but was brought
down so rapidly that we succeeded in run-
ning her on shore below the rapids before
she filed, and burned her. She was a fine
new schooner, upwards of one hundred tons,
called the *Perseverance*. and will be a severe
loss to the North-west Company. Had I
succeeded in getting her safe, I could have
loaded her to advantage from the enemy's
store-houses. I have, however, brought down
four captured boats loaded with Indian
goods to a considerable amount; the balance,
contained in four large and two small store-
houses, were destroyed, amounting in value
from fifty to one hundred thousand dollars.
All private property was, according to your
orders, respected. The officers and men
under my command behaved with great

" activity and zeal, particularly Midshipman
" Swartout.

" I have the honor to be, sir, with great
" respect, your obedient servant,

DANIEL TURNER."

As to the cannon thrown into the river, one of them stands in front of the town hall in the Sault to day (1908) together with the gun the Indians, later on, carried to Point Maimanse. Another is in the possession of Mr. Boyd.

Mr. McGillivray who seems to have been the North-west Company's factor at the Sault escaped together with a lake Captain named McCargo and his crew and made for Michipicoten whence returning with Gabriel Franchere on July 26th they found the ruin to be complete.

In 1815 the people returned and once more took up their residence in the town where they lived in peace until in 1820 a detachment of United States soldiers, under General Cass arrived upon the scene and the south shore once more saw the unfurling of a hitherto unknown flag.

Thus palisades and posts alike disappeared from the district. St. Joseph's was

dismantled, although some of the cannon still lie in the water near Sailors Encampment; the North-west Company's Post was destroyed by fire and the fort which had been laid out for erection on Drummond Island was abandoned and never built.



From 1815 to 1849 matters military were dormant along the North Channel, but on May 24th, in the latter year an attempt was made under Mr. Joseph Wilson to establish a permanent rifle company the idea, no doubt arising in part from excitement among the surrounding Indians at the Government's lease to an American Company of the mines at Point Maimanse the Indians claiming that the Imperial Authorities had unjustly alienated the lands.

In November of the same year the Redmen gathered at Sault Sainte Marie under the leadership of a half-breed named McDonald and set out in boats for the scene of dispute taking along a cannon which they had seized at the point of embarkation.



As neither weapons nor ammunition were in the camp, the Americans surrendered everything to the Indians and awaited the action of the Government.

The authorities acted quickly for on December 2nd Captain Cooper with a detachment of regulars reached the Sault and immediately placed the ringleaders under arrest. Satisfaction being guaranteed to both parties the Indians returned to their camps and the miners to their work while the troops continued in the Sault.

The next year the troops still being in quarters in the town at the foot of the Rapids a feu de joie was fired on May 24th in honour of Her Majesty's birthday.

In 1861 the Americans becoming threatening, rifles were issued with ball cartridge, Messrs Pilgrim, Prince, Simpson, Hamilton and Davidson being the chief advisers of the officer in charge. The cloud however passed away and quietness was again assured but the military spirit was aflame and the next year, 1862 found a company of riflemen hard at work drilling weekly in the school-house. The following year the battery came, unofficially, into being and until very recently fired a salute every Queen's Birthday.

In 1864 the stir caused by the Trent Affair led the men at Bruce Mines to organize and arm as independent rifle companies but no official cognizance was taken by the Government indeed the danger of war could not have been great for the rifle company known as the "Volunteer Rifle Company of Sault Sainte Marie" and authorized by General Orders January 23rd 1863 was gazetted out April 29th 1864 the officers having been Captain, John Davidson; Lieutenant, John Carney; and Ensign, W. F. Moore. Two years later, however, there seemed real need for arming and drilling when the misguided Fenians from the United States organized to attack Canada.



A General Order was promulgated instituting a *Company of Infantry* with Captain Joseph Wilson in command and Lieutenants Septimus Prince, Thomas A. P. Towers and Ensign John Cousens as support,

Word reached the Sault that 400 of these men were mobilising at Marquette in Michigan and in response to the call, fifty two men on June 6th paraded under arms, and took up their quarters on the river beach.

For thirteen anxious days the Company kept a watch not devoid of adventure as when on June 9th a sentry had his shako torn from his head by a bullet fired from a boat on the river. The night was intensely dark and the would be murderers escaped.

On June 15th another alarm was given but nothing of note occurred.

One incident of the affair will quite bear relation. Captain Wilson did not believe in men being idle so the volunteers were set to work to straighten up the barracks wherein they were quartered. Some years previous Father Kohler had placed there with the Captain's permission, a keg of wine for sacramental purposes but the poor priest had long since departed and the presence of the cask was forgotten. In the course of cleaning up however it was discovered and on the return of the officers they found their Company placed *hors de combat* but not by Fenian bullets. The trouble being now over the Company was disbanded June 19th and rifles and uniforms were laid aside.

At the same time that the men of the Sault were under arms, Captains Plummer and Bennetts with their subalterns W. H. Plummer and Edward Bigging, guarded Bruce Mines with 200 men but their duty like that

of the men of the Sault, was confined to sentry go and patrolling of the roads.

On October 17th 1867 Colonel Durie the Assistant Adjutant General, who at one time commanded the Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto, arrived on a tour of inspection and three years later the local force was enthused by the passing through the town of the Red River Expedition under Colonel Wolsley.

A number of the local company volunteered for service under this officer and accompanied him through the vicissitudes of the campaign. Among the officers with Colonel Wolsley at the time were Captain (afterward General) Buller and Lieutenant Hewish who was killed in action in Egypt.

It was owing to the unfriendly attitude of the United States authorities on this and one other occasion in refusing British troops passage through their territory in their journey to the Canadian West, that the Government of Canada undertook the construction of the ship canal and locks which stand to day at Sault Sainte Marie as one of the great engineering feats of the 19th century.

Apropos of the campaign of 1870: Lieutenant T. A. P. Towers not long since recieved a "Distinguished Service" Medal and an



accompanying letter from which the following is extracted :

“ You also had much to do with the
“ expedition which went with me to Fort Gar-
“ ry in 1870. I hope you retain as pleasant a
“ recollection of that undertaking as I do.

“ I shall never forget the energy which
“ the two militia battalions representing the
“ two great provinces of Quebec and Ontario
“ displayed during that undertaking. I wish
“ all the battalions at the present moment
“ in the King's army were composed of as
“ fine men.

“ Believe me to be very truly yours

(sgd.) WOLSLEY. ”

It is indeed a delightful thing not to be forgotten.

In 1874 when the Governor General, Lord Dufferin and Lady Dufferin visited the great Lakes' District, they were welcomed at the Sault with a salute of 17 guns from the half battery under Captain Wilson.

With reference to this half battery there is some mystery and mystery is always of interest. No official recognition of its existence is found until the year 1879 when the following General Order was issued :



A QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PARADE
OF THE UN-OFFICIAL HALF BATTERY.



EXTRACT FROM THE CANADA GAZETTE
MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

23 June 1879,

GENERAL ORDERS (16)

*Sault Ste. Marie Half Battery of
Mountain Artillery.*

“ Authority has been granted to detach
“ twenty one men from the Sault Ste Marie
“ Rifle Company to form a half Battery of
“ Mountain Artillery and to drill and train
“ as such with the two 7 Pr. guns now in
“ possession of that corps. To be under com-
“ mand of Captain and Brevet Major Joseph
“ Wilson from the Sault Ste Marie Rifle
“ Company.”

The explanation of its existance previous to this seems to be found in the splendid enthusiasm of Major Wilson who made use of the presence of cannon which, intended originally for the North West and on the way thither were left in the Sault by their conveyers on representation by the Major that it was utterly impossible to convey them over the many portages which lay in the path to their intended destination.

The Gazette which contains the order about forming the half battery announces the



disposition of the remaining Riflemen as follows:

Sault Sainte Marie Rifle Company.

"The command of the remaining strength of this Company viz 34 Riflemen — 21 having been detached to form the half Battery of Mountain Artillery under command of Brevet Major Wilson — will devolve upon the Lieutenant, Thomas A. P. Towers until further orders."

The designations *Rifle* and *Infantry* company seem in those early days of the Canadian Militia to have been interchangeable as under provincial acts such bodies were termed *Companies of Infantry armed as Riflemen*.

Of Major Wilson something further must now be said for to this sturdy Scotch Britisher, the North shore and the North Channel country owe a deep debt of gratitude. Born in Perthshire in 1818 he came to Canada at the age of fourteen years and when twenty five years old journeyed to the Sault to take the position of customs officer for the district. From his first appearance he was regarded as an authority and was looked up to by all the people. The control of the Crown Lands and the postmastership were placed in his care

and he became the Nemesis of all wrong doers. If any one fell ill he sent for Mr. Wilson. If there arose a dispute about boundaries, it was laid before Mr. Wilson Patriarch, father, unraveller of tangles and inspirer of the inhabitants were all to be seen in the person of this splendid specimen of frontier citizenship.

For fifty eight years did he keep a diary so faithfully that not a single day is without its entry.

He lived to a ripe old age dying March 11 1904 and the following day surrounded by the friends of earlier years as well as those of more recent acquaintance his remains were taken to the family cemetery and laid beside his wife.

The local militia company with reversed arms marched slowly at the head of the funeral procession the band of the 97th Regiment playing the dead march. The casket wrapped in the flag he loved so well was drawn on a blackdraped sleigh and beside it, under Sargeant Howe, strode six of the old battery men who had responded so often to the old leader's call.

At the grave, heaped high with snow, the Chaplain of the Regiment recited the service of the Church of England, the firing

party took post and discharged their three volleys the last salute over a soldier's tomb and from a single bugle there floated out over the desolate hills the lonely notes of the *Last Post* the call known to every warrior when the lights die out and the army sinks to rest.

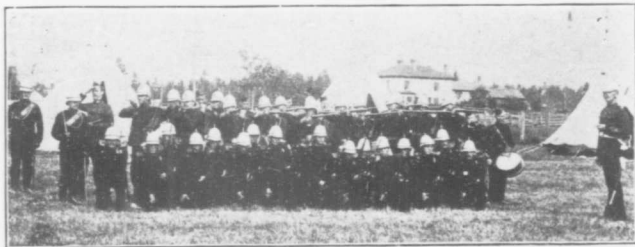


So passed from the scene one whose memory will linger for many a long year. He was a loyal, honorable and consistent man a good father and a true friend who did his best to serve his Queen and his Country.

try.

In 1886 a new spirit of military fervour evidenced itself possibly as a result of the North West Rebellion and a regiment sprang into being known as the "96th" District of Algoma Battalion of Rifles with headquarters at Port Arthur where lived the Lieutenant Colonel, Samuel Wellington Ray.

No. 1 Company was under the command of Captain T. H. Elliott who was gazetted Major March 29 1889. No. 2 Company had headquarters at Fort William, Captain John Niblock commanding. No. 3 Company was stationed at Rat



IN THE DAYS OF THE OLD "96TH"





Portage with Captain Angus Carmichael in charge and No. 4 Company was recruited at Gore Bay with half of the company from Bruce Mines Captain James Munro Frazer holding provisional rank of C. O. This latter company was constituted an independent unit under the Captain of Gore Bay Rifle Company by General Order June 3 1892.

Six months later, on December 16 1892, the little half-battery was gazetted out and has never been replaced.

It was little more than a toy so far as the cannons went although manned by good and true soldiers and some day not far distant will find at the "Soo" — for the protection of the Canal and world-renowned Locks leading from Huron to Superior's waters — a battery of up to date Garrison Artillery whose guns will mount guard from the nearby northern slopes which during the excitement of the British-Venezuelan trouble of the late President Cleveland's time were surveyed for their reception.

But to return: After the formation of the Gore Bay Rifle Company other military organizations speedily arose.

The Sault Saint Marie Rifle Company which after the General Order of June 3 1892 drew half its members from Bruce Mines,



had become attached as No. 6 Company to the 96th Regiment May 31 1889 with Captain W. J. Thompson a worthy descendant of fighting stock in command and the Thessalon Independent Company became No. 5 Company January 18 1896 with Mr. W. A. Keetch as provisional officer he retiring later without having qualified. The regiment disintegrated however and was removed from the strength of the active militia August 28, 1896, the half battery having been gazetted out on December 16 1892.

The same year August 24, 1896, a Rifle Company was formed at Sudbury and on Dominion Day 1900 the 97th Regiment came into being Lieut. Col. Elliot in command the official title being 97th Regiment Algonquin Rifles of Canada.

The Company at Sault Sainte Marie which had struggled along for four years now became No. 1. Company of the new Regiment and on October 11 Sudbury Company also threw in its lot.

Thessalon Company which had been authorized in 1899 was immediately attached to the Command and the riflemen of Sturgeon Falls were gazetted into the Regiment on the same day as were the companies from Sudbury and the Sault.



The regiment was placed under the jurisdiction of the District Officer Commanding No. 2 Military District but for drill purposes was transferred in 1905 to No. 4 Ottawa District. This transfer however was cancelled in 1907 and the regiment found itself back under its old authorities.

By General Order the Crest and Motto of the 97th were fixed, the former being the head of a bull moose, an exceedingly unpleasant animal to quarrel with and an animal quite capable of holding his own and the motto being *Kee-she-nah* an Ojibway word meaning both "*we are here*" and "*we conquer.*"

In 1907 the designation of Companies was changed from numbers to letters:

- "A" *Company being Sault Ste Marie;*
- "B" *Company, Sudbury;*
- "C" *Company, Thessalon;*
- "D" *Company, Sturgeon Falls.*

So great has been the growth of New Ontario, that three additional companies have been formed "E" coming from Massey, "F" Gore Bay, and "H" from New Liskeard.

On April 1 1908 the Regimental Head-



quarters were changed from the Sault to Sudbury the residence of the Officer Commanding, Lieut. Colonel Gordon.

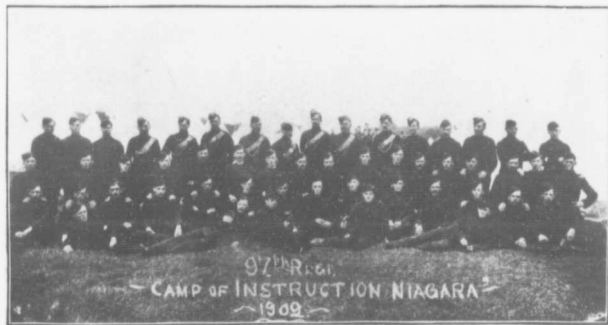
The first Militia List after the formation of the 97th Regiment contained the following officers:

CAPTAIN	2nd LIEUTENANTS
No. 1. Elliot T. H.	No. 1. McGregor D.
" 2. Gordon I. R.	" 3. Ansley J. J.
" 3. McKee H. E.	" 3. Gagnan J.
LIEUTENANT	" 3. Campbell C. V.
N.O I. Adams C. T.	" 4. Roberts M. V.

The official list of November 1908 is:

HONORARY LIEUT. COL.: DYMENT, A. E. ESQUIRE
14 Feb. 1907.

LIEUT.-COLONEL	e Williams H F...16 July 05
Gordon J. R.....17 Nov. 06	ADJUTANT
MAJOR	Creasey W J (<i>capt</i>) 17 Apr 07
McKee H. E.....29 Apr. 07	LIEUTENANT (SIGSALLING)
CAPTAINS
Gillespie W. G. 17 July 02	QUARTERMASTER
<i>Cressey W. J.</i>13 May 03	Ansley J J (<i>hon capt</i>)
d Low E H (<i>smc</i>) 29 Apr 07	13 Feb 01
LIEUTENANTS	MEDICAL OFFICER
a Johnston G W...20 Apr 04	Arthur R H (<i>capt</i>) 27 Apr 02
a Johnston R B...30 " 06	<i>maj.</i> 29 June 06
b Brodie D M....30 " 06	PAYMASTER
a Barnes T T.....30 " 06	McCool C A (<i>hon. capt</i>)
c Spencer E P S...31 May 06	13 Feb 01
a Thompson J A...28 June 06	CHAPLAIN
d Young W H....27 " 07	Capp Rev E H (<i>hon capt</i>)
k Robinson R S...30 May 08	13 Feb 01
k Anderson A H...13 " 07	CORPS RESERVE
d Cockburn W A...1 Jan 08	CAPTAINS
k Morgan A N.....1 Apr 08	Campbell C V 1 May 07
k Herron R B.....1 " 08	16 Apr 01
e Errington J.....14 Apr 08	
f White A L.....27 May 08	



THE CAMP OF 1902.



In the old days the individual companies held their annual Camp in their own territory, an instructor coming from Stanley Barracks to superintend the training and many stories of those times are still recounted by the few old timers who are left in the ever changing district as they sit about the bonfires at the annual Camps. Since 1900 the Regiment has been brigaded with other militia corps as at Niagara in 1901-02, Rockliffe in 1904-05, Rideau Ranges in 1906 and 1908 and Petewawa in 1907. The first officers' meeting was held at Niagara 1902, those present being T. H. Elliott Lt. Col.; J. R. Gordon Major; H. E. McKee, W. G. Gillespie, W. J. Cressey, C. V. Campbell, Captains; Lieutenant Anderson and the Chaplain.

In 1908 seven Companies marched into the annual Camp at the Rideau Ranges with a parade state of 14 officers and 246 non-commissioned officers and men being brigaded for tactical work with the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards and the 42nd and 56th and 59th Battalions, Lt. Colonel Percy Sherwood A. D.C. C.M.G. M.V.O. being Brigadier and Lt. Col. Hodgins, Camp Commandant.

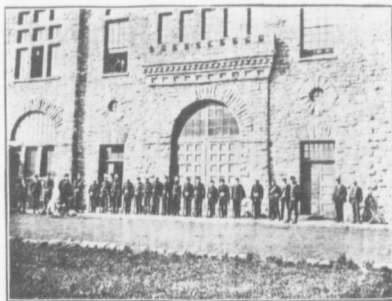
The Story of the formation of the regiment would be most incomplete without a warm tribute being paid to the untiring zeal



of the first Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. T. H. Elliot. The regiment, during his tenure of office, was always his first consideration and officers and men alike ever received his most earnest attention. Under his care, the regimental brass and bugle bands reached a high state of efficiency as did the four Companies which then comprised the Battalion. His successor Lt. Col. J. R. Gordon increased the strength to eight companies and his zeal and devotion as well as that of his Staff and Company officers aided in bringing the Command to a high state of proficiency.

Two equally zealous friends of the regiment are the Honourary Lt. Col. A. E. Dymont ex M. P. and Honourary Captain and Paymaster C.A. McCool ex M.P. to both of which gentlemen the 97th owes a very great deal. Nor is it a less happy condition of things which finds the whole Force of Canada under the direction of Sir Frederick Bordon the Minister of Militia whose untiring efforts on behalf of the Dominion's Soldiery have resulted in a well-equipped, well clothed, splendidly trained and enthusiastic volunteer army full of unbounded faith and confidence in those at the head of affairs military.

The men of the 97th have proved themselves worthy successors of the old time



THE HASTILY-CALLED COMPANY.



THE "DEAD LINE."

THE SAULT STE. MARIE RIOTS.



fighters of the Ojibway country. Three times during the South African war was the call for volunteers met by the Regiment with more applications than the Government could receive and many a tunic in the ranks is decorated with war ribbons

Again, in 1903 when Sault Sainte Marie was threatened by mob violence on the part of several thousand irate lumber men, miners and others, employees of the Lake Superior Power Company. No. 1 and No. 3 Companies of Sault Ste. Marie and Thessalon respectively responded quickly to the call and succeeded in restoring order e'er the Toronto troops which were hurrying to the scene, had arrived.

The following is Lt. Col. Elliott's report of the Affair:

"MEMO RE. RIOT SAULT STE MARIE
October 28 1903, 11,45 a.m.

Received a telephone message from Mayor W. H. Plummer that the assistance of the Militia was needed at the works as a large mob of men was threatening the Offices and other Company property.

I telephoned Captain Campbell who immediately commenced notifying his men to assemble at the Fire Hall as quickly as possible.



In the meantime some of the rioters had left the works and proceeded down town where at Gore Street corner they stopped a street car and attempted to throw it off the track.

Their attitude was so threatening that the management called in all the cars.

The mob then proceeded to the Ferry Dock and took possession of the Ferry System stopping en route to tell the manager of the International Hotel that they were coming back to set it afire.

At 1.30 p.m. the men of No. 1 Company 28 in number including all ranks paraded at the Fire Hall and marched out under myself and Captain Campbell.

A delay in starting had occurred in getting the requisition for aid to the civil power signed by the necessary number of magistrates this finally being done by His Honour Judge O'Connor, the Mayor and Mr. W. A. Quibell the Stipendary Magistrate.

A further delay was caused by the difficulty of getting a magistrate to accompany the troops to the works to read the Riot Act but finally Mr. Quibell consented and the Company started out with fixed Bayonets.

At Gore Street a dense crowd attempted to obstruct the road but the Company forced

its way through and a small party under Captain Campbell was detached to keep the crowd back.

The remainder marched on to the main offices where the work of demolition at the hands of the rioters was in progress.

A further attempt was made 100 yards north from the offices to break the rank but the command, "Halt! with ball cartridge load!" had the desired effect and a barrier stretched in the way being cleared the rioters sullenly watched the Command march on.

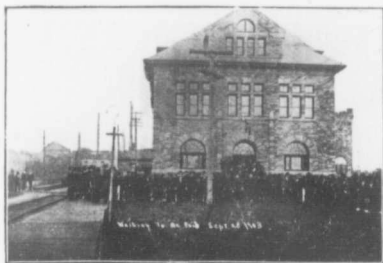
Arriving at the Main Office the Rioters were found breaking windows and office furniture. Several shots had been exchanged between them and the office hands who had taken refuge on the second floor and kept them at bay by shooting down the stairs but on the Company's approach the rioters mingled with the crowd and so were lost. Mr. Quibell read the Riot Act after sentries had been posted and a "Dead Line" was established over which no one was permitted to pass.

As it was reported that 1700 more men were being brought in from the woods thus swelling the ranks of the discontented, it was thought necessary to have assistance and Captain Gillespie with No. 3 Company was

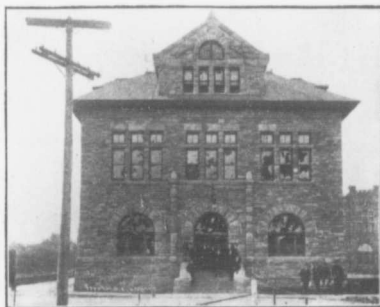
wired for to come at once. Having less than an hour to catch the train and many of his men being recruited from St. Joseph's Island and from the townships back of Thessalon he brought all the arms of his Company which were taken charge by the Chaplain and distributed to a hurriedly sworn-in volunteer Company which he had beaten up under my orders and had stationed, as far as possible to guard the County Jail, the threatened International Hotel and the Town Hall and Fire Hall. The total number of men under arms was now 62 of all ranks and as such a large amount of property was to be guarded by us and word reaching me from the lumber camps that the men on the way in were in threatening humour having been told that they would have to find work elsewhere and could look for no pay for the present. I wired to Colonel Buchan acting D. O. C. of M. D. No. 2 that it was absolutely necessary that we should have assistance.

On Oct. 30 at 3 a.m. the first detachment of the Royal Canadian Dragoons arrived under his command followed by a second detachment in the fore noon.

Our Company was dismissed shortly after the arrival of the first detachment having been constantly on duty for 42 hours.

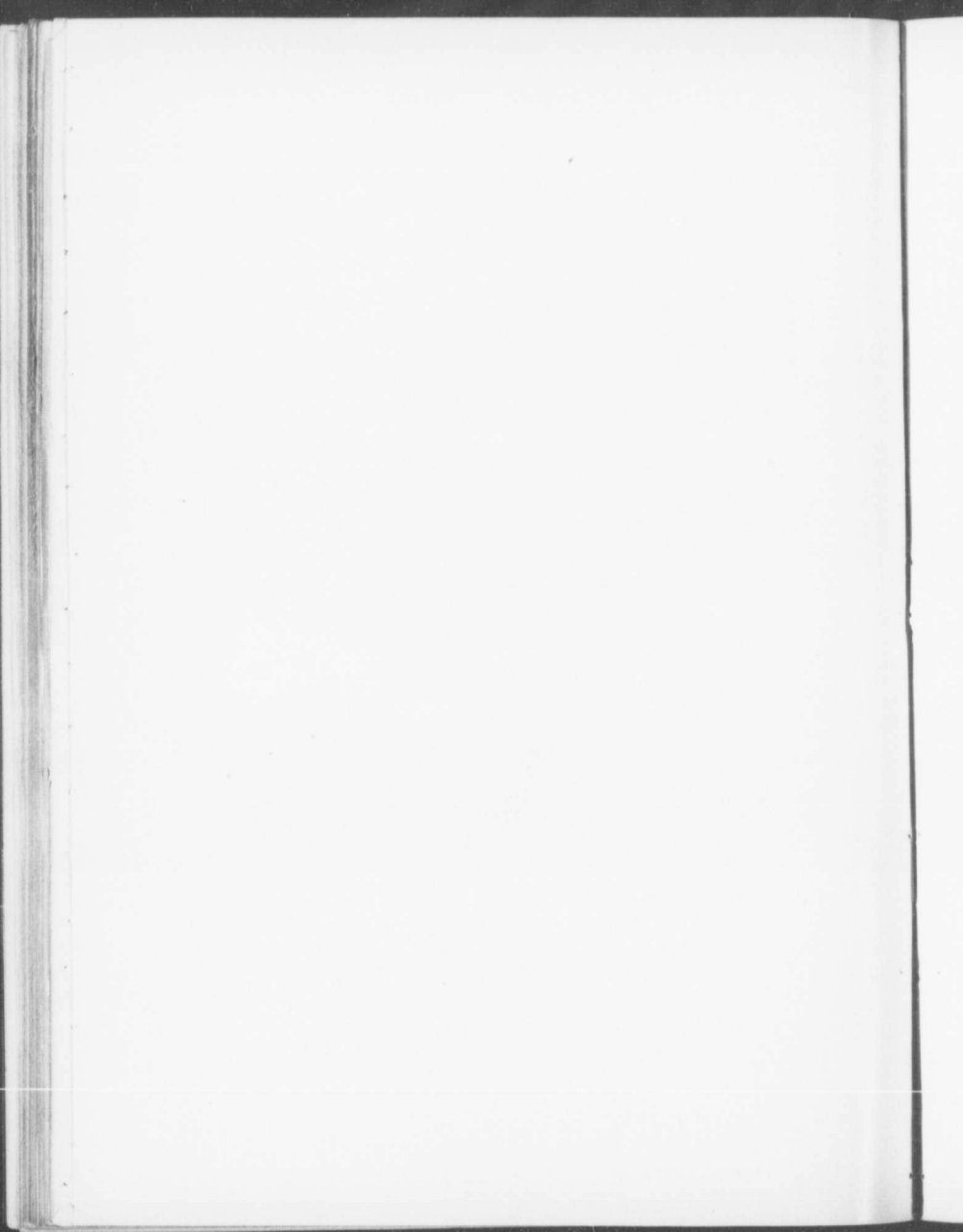


SECTION OF THE MOB.



THE OFFICES AFTER THE ATTACK.

THE SAULT STE. MARIE RIOTS.



The next day a strong detachment of the Toronto forces proceeded along the Algoma Central Railway and escorted a large number of woodsmen quietly down. The Toronto forces left Nov. 1 and 25 men of No. 1 Company remained on duty guarding the Works till Nov. 15.

I can't close this report without mentioning the great services rendered by our gallant Chaplain, Hon'y Captain Rev. Edward H. Capp who not only had full charge of the men who guarded the Town property but was on hand and ever ready to assist in any capacity. And I firmly believe had it not been for his thoughtfulness in forming a scheme of feeding those men who arrived from the woods early on the morning of Oct. 29 having been left out of Town some 15 miles by the Conductors of the train and compelled to walk in, foot-sore and hungry without any money, that very serious trouble would have happened.

(*sgd.*) THOS H. ELLIOTT."

So much for the riot and a large hearted and most appreciative O. C. the type of man to get the best results from all concerned.

Twice has the regiment been honoured by special ceremonial service the occasions

being the coronation of his Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII and the Tercentenary Celebration at Quebec at which a composite Company was present under Lieut. Col. J. R. Gordon.

The 97th wins for itself a good name wherever it goes and a strong *Esprit de corps* binds officers and men together in their mutual sympathy and desire for the welfare of the Regiment. It is not possible as yet, because of the small numerical strength of the corps that a large honour roll of "active service" men should adorn the regimental registers or that bronze tablets to honour those who have fallen in the fight should dignify the walls of the Company armouries and may it be many years before the call to arms rings again in the ears of the people of Canada, but should the bugles be heard, in the providence of God rousing the country to battle, the men of the 97th may confidently be relied upon to do their duty

