

had become largely covered with trees in the meantime. The Indians had camped near the foot of the Butte with a "lookout" on the summit, until their outposts were driven in by the troops. They then moved to the coulee where the battle took place.

Strange remarks that the 65th had neither blankets, great coats, nor rations for the night, and that their comrades of the Winnipeg Light Infantry had but short rations to share with them. A corral was formed as usual and the men were extended to cover its whole circumference. Our advanced outposts could see Indian fires, probably of outpost detachments, during the night.

On the morning of the 28th, the Force advanced along the Indians' trail, preceded by the cavalry dismounted, forming an advanced guard with patrols on and to the right and left of the line of advance. The infantry were on the trail, the 65th leading, then the field gun; then an infantry escort, and then the wagons; all on the trail. The Indian camp ground with remains of a Sacred Lodge was passed. The numbers of tepee circles led the General and his experienced Scouts to believe that at least 600 warriors were in front of them.

The trail turned to the north of Frenchman's Butte and about 6.30 the column reached the south bank of a coulee or ravine about a mile and a half from the Butte, which was the scene of the engagement usually known as Frenchman's Butte, but which is referred to by some Old Timers as "Stand-off-Coulee." It might more accurately, but much less picturesquely, be called the "Battle of the North East quarter of Section 35, Township 53, Range 25, West of the 3rd Meridian." Curiously enough the operations constituting the engagement fitted rather neatly into what is now the quarter section mentioned. In the bottom of this ravine, which is about 150 feet deep and about 600 yards wide, runs a small stream, a tributary of the Little Red Deer. On the south side the slopes were steep and covered with trees; the stream had overflowed its banks, which were soft and swampy; the north slope of the ravine was a bare glacia of about 500 yards and the top of the bank was covered with woods.

The trail led to the right down the hill, across the creek, to the right up the slope and then sharply to the left up a small tributary coulee, and into the woods to the north of the ravine.

The position is about four miles from the Saskatchewan River. Field glasses showed Strange and his officers Indian rifle-pits in the edge of the woods on the north bank. There had evidently been a camp in the bottom of the ravine the previous night but no movement was seen and not a sound came from the hostile position.

The Force was deployed in the woods and the wagons corralled in a small open space to the right. The field gun went into action at the point where the trail led down over the edge of the bank. Steele's Police and Scouts, which advanced on foot, were deployed to the left, the 65th in the centre with two companies of the Winnipeg Light Infantry next to them and the Alberta Mounted Rifles, dismounted, covered the right flank. Two companies of the Winnipeg Light Infantry under Colonel Osborne Smith were held in reserve on the hill. The line extended and moved down the hill to the willows along the creek, drawing a heavy rifle fire from the whole line of Indian trenches. The troops took cover and returned the Indian's fire. Daoust says that the heroic young priest Père Provost, O.M.I., Chaplain of the 65th, accompanied the advance of the men of that Battalion, wearing his white surplice, ready to administer the last sacrament of the Church to any who might be wounded. Two men of the 65th were wounded, Ptes. Marcotte and Le May. The General himself helped to carry the latter to a place of safety; Const. J. McRea of the Mounted Police was also wounded. Captain Strange, in command of the gun, tried shrapnel, which appeared to have little effect, but made good practice with common shell with percussion fuses although the range was very short. The creek was a serious obstacle but some men crossed and no doubt all could have done so. However, those who did were met with a murderous fire from the Indians' Winchester rifles, on emerging from the willows, and the General realized that an assault up the bare slope was too desperate to be attempted.

General Strange's official report of this engagement states that he directed Major Steele to get his men mounted and reconnoitre the right of the Indian position, and that the 65th extended to the left to occupy the space left vacant. Steele got his men mounted and moved to the left; after a considerable delay he reported that the Indian position extended for about a mile and a half, protected by bogs and muskegs along the course of the stream. It has since been learned from the

Indians that "Wandering Spirit," the head war chief under Big Bear, observed Steele's movement and moved a party on a parallel route, occasionally sending bursts of fire in his direction and ready to protect the Indian right flank in case of any attempt to turn it. The same chief was responsible for laying out and completing the trenches which had been hastily dug by the Indians and some of the prisoners.

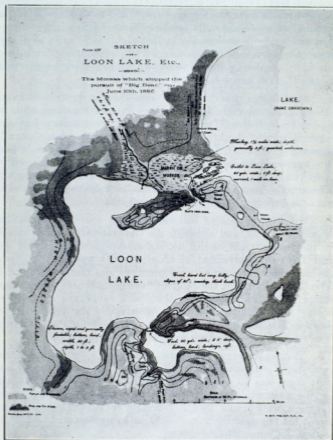
Steele's report and the knowledge that the Indians in front of him outnumbered his force three to one, together with a report from Major Hatton that some of the enemy had got round his right flank and were firing into the wagon corral, determined General Strange to retire clear of the woods and this was accordingly done. Steele's Scouts covered the retirement, the field gun keeping up as rapid a fire as possible. The muzzle loading 9-pounder with its volunteer crew could not of course lay down a very heavy barrage.

Upon completion of this retirement a conference of senior officers was held, and although the General favoured an attack on the Indian right he did not insist on this being carried out and a further retirement of about 6 miles was made to open ground where the wagons were corralled and the horses grazed. The 65th found that the pilot on hearing the heavy firing had taken their scow behind an island and found the current too strong for a return up stream. Eventually the scow went on down to Battleford with their blankets, great coats and rations. The whole Force was back at Fort Pitt by nightfall.

The reader must remember that General Strange had not established communication with General Middleton's troops and that there was no possibility of his being reinforced. He was in the vast wilderness, hundreds of miles from anywhere, facing a well armed Indian force which he believed outnumbered his troops three to one. As he had often said he had no notion of "committing Custer."

8. LOON LAKE

Major Perry with his score of Police, Canon MacKay and the Rev. John McDougall had left Battleford on board a steamer in charge of Mr. Bedson to return to Fort Pitt. When about half way up despatch-bearers in a canoe were met who gave the news of the fight at Frenchman's Butte. Major Perry landed his party and proceeded by trail while the steamer returned to Battleford for orders.



On May 31st the Alberta Field Force again moved out from Fort Pitt and on June 1st occupied the Indian position north of the coulee. An examination of the trails proved that the Indians had moved off in a northeasterly direction. They had abandoned many wagons and cars and also very valuable furs. Much of the loot of Fort Pitt was found lying on the ground. Many of the wagons and carts could not be moved and were burned.

The drawing given in General Strange's Book (1) of the Indian position does not correctly show the elaborate system of trenches on their left flank. These are, however, accurately described in the text as "the large trenches on the enemy's left flank, commanding the trail approaching their position, formed a formidable ambuscade." These trenches may be seen today, four lines of them, in the bush flanking the trail leading up the small coulee from the main ravine. Why were they dug there by orders of Wandering Spirit and Little Poplar? Were they intended as a flank defence or as an ambush? As the Canadian North-West Historical Society has been given custody of this battlefield the trenches will be preserved and future generations of visitors will try to fathom the mind of the Indian warrior by means of these "documents." Fortunately, notwithstanding forty-five years of rain and snow and tramping of stock the trenches are in a perfect state of preservation.

General Strange now ordered Steele to pursue Big Bear with such mounted troops as were at hand, about 60 in all. Without doubt this was the proper thing to do but also without doubt the decision was hastened by the information that General Middleton's steamer had arrived at Fort Pitt. Steele says that as the little force—20 Police, 20 Steele's Scouts and 20 Alberta Mounted Rifles—surely the smallest Cavalry Brigade that ever pursued a fleeing foe, moved off, a staff officer conveyed to Major Hatton of the Alberta Mounted Rifles an order to return to Fort Pitt—and that Hatton was so disgusted at losing the chance to participate in the sporting dash after Big Bear that he actually wept.

Steele was assured that the mounted troops arriving with General Middleton would be sent on to support him and he moved off without much in the way of ammunition or supplies and no transport—not even pack transport.

By noon of June 2nd, Steele was in touch with Indians who showed themselves across a meadow. Steele galloped at them with his whole squadron, only to find them a small rear guard who disappeared into the forest. Trooper Fisk of Steele's Scouts was shot out of his saddle with a severe wound and Trooper Peterson of Steele's Scouts was slightly wounded.

On resuming the march early on the morning of June 3rd, the advance guard from high ground overlooking Loon Lake



Site of Big Bear's Camp, when he was surprised by Col. Steele in 1885



This is what Middleton called miles of morass, north of Loon Lake narrows.

signalled the enemy in sight. Looking north from this Steele saw a beautiful lake with a peninsula extending out from the south-east shore. Horses and carts were fording the narrows to this peninsula which was high and wooded. In the foreground were some tepees with squaws excitedly preparing to leave. An ambushade was suspected and Steele's men dismounted and advanced with great caution. Teamster Billy Fielders with his friend Trooper Bill West of Steele's Scouts were the first to uncover the ambushade, the former "getting" the first Indian at close quarters. A brisk fire broke out on all sides. The Indians tried to turn the cavalry's left flank but were met by a determined party under Sergt.-Major Fury of the Mounted Police and were pushed back to the ford. Fury and West were severely wounded in this movement.

Presently Steele became aware that the Indians had succeeded in getting their whole force across the ford to the peninsula and were delivering a strong fire from concealed positions in the woods. Steele, seeing that it would be madness to attempt to force the ford in the face of such strong opposition and that he had not men enough to attempt a flanking movement by his right, retired his command to the top of the ridge. He then called on Canon MacKay, the very militant churchman, to shout a message in Cree to the Indians, advising them to give up the prisoners, but the only reply was a dangerous volley. The engagement lasted two hours. One of the Indians killed in this fight was a well-known Wood Cree Chief named "Cut-Arm."

Steele now decided to retire on the supporting troops and next morning met General Middleton with 50 Mounted Police under Colonel Herchmer, 40 Dennis Scouts, commanded by Capt. Dennis, now Colonel G. Dennis, C.M.G., 60 Boulton's Scouts, and 20 Brittlebank's Scouts with one gun of "A" Battery and one "Gatling-gun," with one infantry company from each of the Grenadiers, Midlands and 90th. The infantry was ordered back to Fort Pitt and General Middleton determined to follow Big Bear with his Mounted Troops, his field gun and the "Gatling," taking Steele's little command along with him.

9. THE FORCE COMES UNDER MIDDLETON'S COMMAND

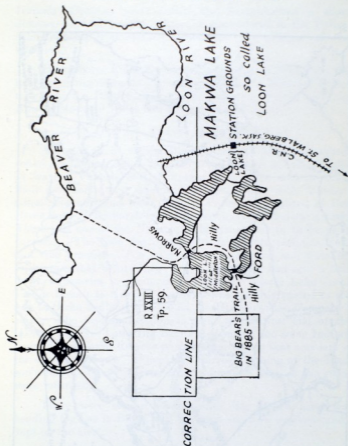
Realizing that the Indians would turn east or west General Middleton arranged for four other columns beside his



The Morass and Site on hill of Middleton's and Steele's last Camp in the Chase of Big Bear in 1885

own mounted command to go north—Colonel Irvine with North-West Mounted Police from Prince Albert to Green Lake, Colonel Otter from Battleford to Turtle Lake, General Strange with the Alberta Field Force, minus Steele's Cavalry, by way of Onion Lake and Frog Lake to the Beaver River at Le Goff on the Chippewyan Reserve, and the St. Albert Mounted Rifles, under Captain Sam Cunningham with Captain des Georges of the 65th as Staff Officer, representing headquarters to Lac la Biche. General Middleton marched to Loon Lake, intending to proceed to the Beaver River, which runs easterly, roughly parallel to the Saskatchewan. He was stopped, however by an impassable muskeg at the north end of Loon Lake, which had thawed since the Indians crossed. He retraced his route and followed Strange to the Beaver River at Le Goff. One hundred of the Winnipeg Light Infantry were sent to Cold Lake under Colonel Osborne Smith.

The Chippewyans had returned to their Reserve and claimed to have left Big Bear before the fight at Frenchman's Butte, having purchased their release by giving up forty head of cattle. The Wood Crees had separated from Big Bear shortly after the fight at Loon Lake, taking the prisoners north with them, while Big Bear and his Plain Crees moved east in the direction of Turtle Lake. A half dozen of the prisoners had escaped after the fight at Frenchman's Butte and an Indian scout now brought in word that the Wood Crees had



released their prisoners north of the Beaver River near Lac des Isles, but left them to make their way back to Fort Pitt by way of Loon Lake, about a hundred miles, without any supply of food. They were forced to exist on such game as they were able to take. General Middleton now ordered all troops back to Fort Pitt. From this place he sent out food and blankets for the prisoners by Mr. Bedson, who met them near Loon Lake. Big Bear eventually turned south between Otter's and

Irvine's Columns and crossed the Saskatchewan a short distance west of Carlton, where he surrendered to the Police, after learning from the half-breeds of the collapse of the rebellion.

The Alberta Field Force was broken up at Fort Pitt, the infantry going down the river in steamers, the Mounted Police mostly to the Battleford post, and Steele's Scouts and the Alberta Mounted Rifles to Edmonton and Calgary.

10. THE ST. ALBERT MOUNTED RIFLES

A word as to St. Albert Mounted Rifles. This little squadron of about sixty, all ranks, rode to the Mission at Lac la Biche by way of Victoria and Whitefish Lake. The men provided their own horses and saddlery and were issued with "Snider" rifles. No uniforms were issued. Transport consisted of Red River carts. The march from Edmonton occupied about a week. They used one of the Mission buildings at Lac la Biche as a barracks. The time was occupied with patrols, picquets, drill and rifle practice. The reserves were patrolled and watched. It appears that before their arrival, Big Bear had sent a half dozen emissaries to excite the Indians at Beaver Lake (near Lac la Biche) to rise and the news was speedily passed to the Lac la Biche Indians, who looted the Hudson's Bay Company's store. The leading half-breeds went to the west end of the lake for safety. Later Big Bear's messengers and some Indians from Beaver Lake Reserve picked up anything that was left at the company's store. When Mr. Harrison Young of the Hudson's Bay Company arrived from Edmonton some of the goods were returned.

There were several rumors that Big Bear's band was heading for Lac la Biche, and the little garrison was constantly kept on the alert.

The St. Albert Mounted Rifles returned to Edmonton early in July and their arms were turned in to the store at Fort Saskatchewan in September.

Appendix

I. ED. HUGHES' REPORT

LOON LAKE, SASK, NOV. 7, 1931.

DEAR MR. CAMPBELL INNES:

Promised you that I would look up Chief Big Bear's trail in this district, is now almost ancient history. However, time has been not too plentiful, when work called elsewhere, and delay has been most regrettable.

Took several parties over and explored Loon Lake Narrows. The Ford, as Middleton calls it, and Big Bear's trail to the north of the narrows beyond the morass and also to the south beyond the Ford.

Big Bear's Trail is yet distinguishable in spots, it can be followed with ease. It is well tramped down but not in use now at this point. It follows high land and well located where followed, even north of the lake across the so-called morass it has a hard bottom. The extent of this morass is exaggerated, well and over above what it actually is. The trail is the most logical route to the Beaver River from this point and the shortest.

The sketches of Middleton's report are remarkably correct, distance is overestimated, but the shape and description can be followed with ease.

This country has an historic interest coupled with the scenic value of this lake country, the fishing and hunting. The sandy beaches and the high temperatures of these waters in summer encourage much bathing by the country people and tourists that come to these parts. The fact that Big Bear's trail is located here is proof that a highway is feasible to the west and north of Loon Lake Narrows, and this is now becoming an actual thing. Work is in progress now to have this an accomplished fact.

Am sending you a sketch, showing the trail as found and answers the description of Middleton's account of it, with points of interest. Some photographs taken to show the actual picturesque scenes. Films are preserved and if these and others lately taken are of value, you are certainly welcome to them.

I am, very truly,

ED. HUGHES,

*Resident Engineer, The Tomlinson Construction Co.,
The Canadian National Railways.*

II. OLD TIMERS WHO WERE THERE.

J. Tomkins, No. 7 Fell Avenue, Vancouver, B.C.

When the Rebellion broke out I was Indian interpreter at Duck Lake. On arrival of Commissioner Irvine I was transferred to his Department and worked as a Headquarters Scout in Carlton and Prince Albert. Made the ride from Fort Carlton to Snake Plains with despatches to the farm instructor in charge and the Reverend John MacKay, with orders to hold the Indians, if possible, which was done. Rode 50 miles on the 27th of March—there was lots of snow—and delivered these despatches in 12 hours. Rode Mr. H. Reed's horse, Dandy, arriving back in Carlton just as it was set on fire and acted as scout in advance of troops to Prince Albert. Good road all the way; used sleighs.

I was under orders to General Strange from the time the troops arrived in Fort Pitt until after the white women were returned and the Indian prisoners captured and brought to Fort Pitt, headed by Wandering Spirit.

I was interpreter and guide to Hayter Reed of the Indian Department, who at that time was Indian Commissioner and Brigade General. We left Prince Albert on board the S.S. Northwest and disembarked at Fort Pitt. There met General Strange. I was instructed to guide the scouting force to Frenchman's Butte, where there was a fight, but as I was on my way to find out where the white prisoners were, I did not see this battle. I returned to Fort Pitt when the white prisoners were brought in and afterwards returned to Battleford, where I was stationed as interpreter to the Indian Agents, who after the Indian trials were John Rae, a Mr. Wilson and Archdeacon MacKay. I left the service in 1887, going to Montana.

* * * *

R. G. MacBeth, Vancouver.

Noticing an item in the Vancouver Province asking for men who were with General Strange's Alberta Field Force, I may say that I was Lieutenant in No. 1 Company of the Winnipeg Light Infantry and that I was in action at Frenchman's Butte. At the time I enlisted I was a law student in Winnipeg. Born in Kildonan, near by the home of the Selkirk

Settlers. Your idea of preserving some record of this Force and its campaign is a worthy one. The movement of this Force from Calgary to Edmonton headed off many efforts by the Indians. In my book, "The Making of the Canadian West," you will find a quite detailed account of our Alberta Field Force Campaign. It was written from my notes or diary written up all through the campaign.

* * * *

A. C. D. Pigott, Vancouver.

I was on Big Bear's Trail with the troops from Fort Pitt to Loon Lake and was the only white man in Big Bear's last camp, north of Loon Lake.

* * * *

W. T. Oke, Sardis, B.C.

I was with Steele's Scouts. I joined up in Calgary with the Scouts and was in all the engagements that took place then.

* * * *

George W. Wilks, Vancouver.

I had the honour of serving in that campaign—as bugler in No. 1 Kildonan Company of the Winnipeg Light Infantry. Company officers were Captains Pilsworth, First Lieutenant Sutherland, Second Lieutenant MacBeth, and officer in charge of the battalion, Colonel Osborne Smith, later receiving the North-West Medal. If you wish any further reminiscences of those thrilling days of the march from Calgary to Edmonton, of the arrival at Fort Pitt which was still burning as the Indians had fired it—nothing remained but smoking ruins, I will be glad to give them. No infantry took part at Loon Lake, only the Mounted Police under Colonel Sam Steele.

* * * *

James H. Stevenson, Vancouver.

I came to Battleford in June, 1883. I think I was the youngest boy to carry arms in the Poundmaker scare of 1884. I was in the Battleford Rifles in 1885, under Captain E. E. Nash and Major Smith. I was one of the men sent out to bring in the body of Barney Freemont. I was in the Battle of Cut Knife Hill under Colonel Otter. Also one of the party sent to Frog Lake. I was in Ross's Scouts with Colonel Otter in the Flying Column north after Big Bear. Along with

Ross, Captain Sayers and a scout by the name of Short met some of General Strange's Scouts near old Fort Pitt. I was only fourteen in '85, and my memory is very clear of things that happened, such as Major Crozier; Paddy Burke, killed at Cut Knife; the hanging of the Indians; the trip north, following Big Bear's trail when he had Mrs. Gowanlock and Mrs. Delaney and the McLean girls; also Frog Lake and old Fort Pitt. If I can be of any assistance to you please let me know. Mrs. J. M. Skelton is my aunt.

* * * *

C. E. B. Bright, Calgary.

I served all through the Rebellion with Sam Steele, Otter and Herchmer.

* * * *

R. H. Metcalfe, Norwood Grove.

The writer was a member of the 65th Battalion and was with General Strange's Column throughout the campaign, having enlisted at Montreal at the age of sixteen. The General was much liked and used to address the Battalion in the French language which suited the boys, as possibly not more than ten per cent were English-speaking. We all got along nicely together and the writer for one learned to speak their language. Trusting you may meet with every success in your endeavour.

* * * *

Angus Morrison, Fort Pitt.

Here is one who is still alive and is within four miles of the old trenches at Frenchman's Butte and was with the force when they got the two women from the Indians at Loon Lake. There are some in Battleford who know me, that is Mr. Rowland, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. John Todd.

* * * *

E. A. Hayes, Okotoks, Alberta.

I was a member of Steele's Scouts under General Strange. I may say that we took the bodies of the victims of the Frog Lake Massacre from the wells and cellars and buried them when we arrived there; also we found the body of the Policeman who was killed at Fort Pitt-Cowan. Also I was in the engagements at Frenchman's Butte and Loon Lake. All the

members of Steele's Scouts or nearly all are now gone as far as I know.

* * * *

Sam Weir, Winnipeg.

I belonged to the Winnipeg Ninety-first Battalion Winnipeg Light Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Osborne Smith.

* * * *

John O. Williams, Calgary.

I have a vivid picture of the situation found at Frog Lake when we arrived, and was one of the advanced party finding the bodies of the victims, including the two priests; also of Fort Pitt, where the body of Mounted Police Cowan was found. Saw the condition of the body, etc. I was also on advance duty at Frenchman's Butte and can remember exact positions of our troops at that battle. We were a part of the column of troops following Indians to Loon Lake and Cold Lake. Our company was one of the force held at Fort Pitt after all trouble was over until all Indians had surrendered. Being on some geological work from Meadow Lake to Fort Pitt, thence across to St. Walburg and Battleford, I took a look over our old battle ground at Frenchman's Butte in 1928. I found the old rifle pits of the Indians. They were not filled in by dust or clays to any great amount but large poplar trees were growing up out of them and were of good size. I had the honor of being one of four members of the Manitoba Dragoons selected to represent the Province at the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, having the bronze medal for same—1897.

* * * *

Captain W. Parker, Medicine Hat.

I beg to state that I was an eye-witness of the engagement of Frenchman's Butte, being a member of Major Steele's Scouts and was one of the advanced Scouts that located the Indians in their intrenched position on the opposite side of a muskeg. The following day I was sent back to Fort Pitt as part of an escort to bring General Middleton to General Strange's camp, so was not present at Steele's engagement at Loon Lake.

R. L. Barber, Calgary, has sent an interesting account of his experiences, beginning with his enlistment at Calgary after a year's prospecting in the foothills. The latter part of his story is as follows:

General Strange arrived at Fort Pitt on the 25th of May, after passing Frog Lake, the scene of the massacre, where he detailed men to bury the dead he found there. Fort Pitt was still smouldering, having been set on fire on the evening of the 24th. We remained one day at Fort Pitt, and then started after the Indians and came upon them at Frenchman's Butte, which was a very high hill. We formed a line for attack. About 200 Indians were circling Frenchman's Butte, but a few shots from the 9-pounder soon drove them off—they did not like the gun "that spoke twice." We followed the Indians and came up to them at Stand Off Coulee. There we found rifle pits dug and protected by trees, extending about a mile and a half along the brow of the hill. Previous to our coming, the Indians had decided to hold a Sun Dance. However, before the ceremony was well under way, they were disturbed by the information that the soldiers were near. The prisoners and the families were moved across the little Red Deer River, out of sight, and the Indians spent the night making rifle pits and throwing up defences in preparation for the next day's battle. The column retired about two miles and bivouacked for the night. We advanced again at daybreak in an easterly direction. The Police, Scouts and Mounted Rifles deployed as skirmishers, the 65th forming the Advance Guard behind the skirmishers and the Winnipeg Light Infantry followed as the main body. The Police and the Scouts advanced into the Valley in skirmishing order, followed by the 65th and Col. Smith's battalion, covered by the 9-pounder which kept up a steady fire on the opposite side where the Indians were in force. This continued about three hours. Major Steele was now sent out to scout around to the left, and Major Hatton to the right of the enemy's position. They returned and reported to General Strange that the hills and valleys swarmed with Indians. General Strange, feeling that with so small a force and no supports nearer than Battleford, it was useless to go on, determined to retire, waiting reinforcements, so the troops were withdrawn and retired up the valley, covered by the Winnipeg Light Infantry, and in this engagement two of the 65th were wounded.

In the morning the Mounted troops detoured to the rear of the Indians' position of the day before, but found they had retreated towards Loon Lake in the night. When we came to their camp, there were thousands of dollars' worth of furs on the ground, but we were not allowed to dismount from our horses. These furs had been stolen from the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Pitt. We then returned to camp; next day sixty-five of us left early under the command of Col. Steele, after Big Bear and his band, who were in the Loon Lake district. We rode single file through the bush and then stopped at noon to give our horses rest and eat our hard tack; and just as we rode off, Scout Fiske was shot in the arm. We dismounted and went skirmishing through the bush where we saw several Indians running into the bushes but they escaped.

We rode until 12 o'clock midnight and camped between two sloughs, building a barricade with trees and our saddles. We took up Big Bear's trail at daylight, which was about two o'clock in the morning and came upon him about 10 o'clock but found most of the Indians had retreated across the narrow neck of the lake. Big Bear tried to get his braves to recross the lake and attack and told them that the soldiers were not all there, but that half of them had stayed behind. Some of the Indians would start across but a few shots sent them hurrying back among the trees. Afterwards we found there were ten killed before they could all cross the lake and we could count several in the water and on the other side of the lake. The Indians did not appear to see very well. As our ammunition was about all gone, Col. Steele gave orders to retire. He sat on his horse on a hill until every man had passed him. We returned to the former camp, where we were joined by General Middleton and his troops from Battleford. We started next day to follow up Big Bear under General Middleton's command. After going for a day, we halted and the mounted troops under Col. Steele were sent after Big Bear. At every bend on Loon Lake, which was a crooked one, there would be rifle pits built to hold one man and built of stone in the front for protection. Here at Loon Lake we found the body of an Indian squaw who had hanged herself. She had been too old and too sick to travel with her tribe and had taken this means of preventing her capture by the soldiers. After about an hour, the order was countermanded and the troops ordered back to camp and then we marched back to Fort Pitt. We then went to Beaver

River and from there to Fort Pitt, where we rested a few days and the infantry went down the Saskatchewan River by boat and the mounted troops returned to Calgary, and the Rebellion was over. Our discharges were granted a few days after arriving in Calgary.

* * * *

III. REPORT OF GENERAL STRANGE

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT RE N.W. REBELLION, 1885
DEPARTMENT OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE

*Appendix D. to the Report of the Major-General Commanding
CAMP FORT PITT, May 28th, 1885.*

TO MAJOR-GENERAL MIDDLETON, *Commanding.*

SIR,—

On the morning of the 25th, from intelligence received from Captain Oswald, advanced scout, that the ruins of Fort Pitt were still burning, with a force of Indians in the neighbourhood, I pushed on the first ten miles and reached Fort Pitt without opposition. I sent scouts in every direction. The Reverend Canon MacKay and the Reverend John McDougall crossed the river with scouts; they reported tracks made by white women's feet, and found slippers. I immediately made preparations to cross the river. Next day I received information that Major Steele, commanding advanced Scouts to the east or north side of the river, had been fired upon about ten miles distant from Fort Pitt, two Indians were killed, and their ponies captured, one of the Indians wore the Queen's medal, and is said to be the headman who commenced the outbreak at Saddle Lake. Meanwhile I had sent Major Perry with twenty Police to reconnoitre south side of the river. He is still absent. I subsequently received a report from Major Steele that the Indians were in force on his front; the Scouts counted one hundred and eighty-seven lodges. I immediately marched with all the troops at my disposal, after leaving a company of the 65th to fortify and protect what remained of Fort Pitt, with the camp equipage and stores I left behind. Mustering 195 rank and file Infantry, 29 Cavalry, and one gun—wishing to advance quickly—I used all the available wagons to carry Winnipeg Light Infantry detachments and sent 65th detachment by river on flat boat. On reaching Major



GENERAL STRANGE.

Steele and his Scouts, I carried the wagons and advanced four miles and a half, and found the enemy occupying a very advantageous position, and signalling for reinforcements. I immediately attacked and drove them from their position without loss on my part. Major Steele with the North-West Police and Scouts under his command, carried the position on the left with the assistance of one company of Infantry of the W.L.I. The field gun, under Captain Strange and Sergeant O'Connor, N.W.M.P., and manned by a detachment W.L.I., made excellent practice. I was not able to wait for the junction of the 65th who left the boats and advanced with alacrity. I followed the enemy's trail till darkness was approaching through a

terribly thick and difficult country, where I could scarcely find space to corral the wagons and horses. The Force, being without tents, bivouacked under arms without camp fires.

At daybreak on the 28th, I again moved forward, finding numerous traces of recent trails joining the Indian troops from every direction. About 7.30 a.m. I found the enemy occupying an impregnable position in the forks of the Red Deer and Little Red Deer, presenting a salient with a natural glacis crowned with brush and rifle-pits along the crest. The Red Deer River, which expands into a muskeg, covering the front and flanks of the position which extended about three miles. I deployed the little force at my disposal, throwing forward Major Steele, W.M.I., dismounted, and Scouts, and 65th detachment under Colonel Hughes and half W.L.I. extending on their right, remaining in reserve. Colonel Osborne Smith commanding reserves. Major Hutton, Alberta Mounted Rifles, covering right flank, the gun under Captain Strange and Sergeant Owen made excellent practice, silencing several rifle-pits. I corralled the wagons in rear. Finding the direct attack in front impracticable, I ordered Major Steele to retire his men, mount and make a detour to endeavor to turn the enemy's right flank while occupying their attention in front. While being absent for some time, he returned and reported the enemy's position extending for a mile and a half with the muskeg in front impassable for his men, the enemy's position being about three miles in extent and defended, the Scouts informed me, by at least six hundred men, some of whom crept through the wood around me and opened fire upon the wagons corralled in rear. The teamsters, however, under Captain Wright, 43rd Regiment, remained steady under fire. I judged it advisable to retire to more open ground. This was carried out by the Forces with perfect deliberation, the gun under Captain Strange firing until the last moment, the enemy's fire dying away almost; the return being covered by Major Steele's men, dismounted, we were not molested. They retired to open ground six miles distant, where they corralled the wagons and turned out the horses to graze, and cooked provisions for the men. Our loss is very slight, considering the fire we were under, the men taking excellent cover:—

65th Battalion:

Private Le Mai, shot through the lungs.

do Marcotte, wounded seriously, but not dangerously.

Constable J. McRae, N.W.M.P., shot through the legs.

All the troops did their duty to my entire satisfaction. Thanks are specially due to Brigade Major Dale, Major Steele, Commanding Cavalry, and Colonel Osborne Smith and Colonel Hughes, Commanding Battalions, Captain Wright, Supply Officer, Major Boulton, Commanding Bridging Party. Surgeon Pennyfather made arrangements for the Field Hospital.

(Sgd.) T. B. STRANGE,
Major-General,
and Colonel Commanding Field Force.

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"Forty Years in Canada," Maj.-Gen. Sir Sam Steele, C.B.,
K.C.B., M.V.O.
"Cent-Vingt Jours de Service Actif," C. R. Daoust, 65th
Carabiniers Mont Royal.
"The North-West Rebellion," Major Boulton.
"The War Trail of Big Bear," W. Bleasdel Cameron.
Notes re Edmonton Volunteer Company, John A. Mitchell.

INTERVIEWS

- (Late) Maj.-Gen. Sir Sam Steele, K.C.B., M.V.O.
Hon. Frank Oliver.
(Late) James Green, N.W.M.P. (with Major Perry).
W. Bleasdel Cameron.
Kenneth A. McLeod, Edmonton Volunteer Company.
John A. Mitchell, Edmonton Volunteer Company.
Dougald Cameron, 91st Winnipeg Light Infantry.
Joseph Paquette, Laboucane Settlement.
L. G. Lovell, Onion Lake, Sask. (wagon transport).
Patrick Kelly, St. Albert Mounted Rifles.
Edward Carey, St. Albert Mounted Rifles.
W. R. West, Steele's Scouts.
Alex. Rowland, Steele's Scouts.

Frank Lucas, Fort Ethier.
Ray Gaetz, Red Deer, Alta.
Lieut.-Col. Frank Osborne, Dispatch Rider.
Major R. G. Hardisty, Dispatch Rider.
Maj.-Gen. Hon. W. A. Griesbach, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

HONORARY PATRON
IMPERIAL OIL LIMITED

President C. O. Stillman, writing in 1930, on the occasion of his Company's Golden Jubilee, as follows: "We do not so much celebrate a sum of years which is yet uncommon among Canadian industrial organizations as record thanks for the opportunity to serve and for talents and faithful work of those men and women who kept our Company abreast of the times. As it was our Company's privilege to establish itself in a young country of enormous possibilities, it is our duty to serve that country as well as such opportunities demand. This we have tried to do by the creation of a distributing system that has marched along with our pioneers to the outposts, by the establishment of industrial plants in Canada to afford employment to Canadian labour and by extending in every way possible the ownership of our Company in the country it serves."

The Early Days of Canada's Oil Industry

James Shaw made the first big strike at Oil Springs in Western Ontario, producing 2,000 barrels per day. In 1862 William Spencer refined oil for illuminating purposes at Woodstock. J. H. Williams, who struck oil in 1857, built a refinery at Hamilton. Many other refineries were built and great improvements were made in the process of distillation and refining. These firms amalgamated and operated under the name of the London Oil Refining Company. In 1870 a European export business was developed. Very many refineries were established. However, exports diminished and general business declined with the development of refining. In 1886 the production of Canadian crude oil reached the million barrel mark. In 1880 the Imperial Oil Company was formed by prominent pioneer oilmen. Immediately there began decided improvements in manufacturing and marketing. The advent of the internal combustion engine created a market for greater variety of oil products. The Imperial Oil Company needed more crude oil than her country could supply. Just prior to the

Great War a systematic search for oil bearing structures began. Peru, near the Equator, and Fort Norman, near the Arctic Circle, Colombia, Ecuador and Alaska and the Prairie Provinces have been trekked. Only Peru and Colombia, and in a lesser degree, in the Turner Valley, have worth-while holdings been secured. During the period between 1889 and 1913, 1,203 wells had been drilled, bringing production up to 1,405,786 barrels for the year 1913. In 1929 the production was eleven million barrels. In Colombia, between 1926 and 1930, 70,274,196 barrels of crude oil have been piped into Imperial tankers for its refineries in Canada at Calgary, Regina, Montreal, Dartmouth, Ioco and Sarnia. The development of its South American fields led to the phenomenal growth in the Company's transport fleet. Its fleet in 1899 consisted of three large barges towed up and down the lakes by chartered tugs. In 1930 its fleet consisted of fifteen large ocean going vessels and ten steamships for lake service. This fleet carried 23,000,000 barrels in the year. The world's largest oil tanker, C. O. Stillman, carries nearly seven million gallons of crude oil.

The amazing growth of the Imperial Oil Limited has directly stimulated activity in the fields of Science, Art and Literature to achieve the enrichment of Canadian Nationalism.

THE SOCIETY'S PROGRESS

The main objective is to interview and edit stories of life activities of the pioneers of the earliest settlement days. It is expected that interviewing of the pioneers of the 70's and 80's will be completed in the coming year. Thereafter it is hoped the publication of the series will be greatly hastened. Hundreds of documents received exhibit a keen appreciation of our pioneers to assist in putting in order the historical archives of the Prairie Provinces. It may be that errors will creep in. However, the publications are so arranged that corrections and additions may be made at any time. Additional numbers will be published on the same subject, as new material or facts are secured. For example, very interesting light can be thrown on the Loon Lake story by the report of Steele and the reminiscences of Halpin now on file, as well as those of Father Legoff. Each publication calls for more stories. It may be the desire of the future historian to edit the Society's proposed ten volumes of some eight to twelve numbers each in much more condensed and interesting form. For the present

every effort should be made to secure the material before the pioneer passes. Besides documents very many helpful pictures have been received.

The Library contains almost every book. There has just been received: "The Mohawk Princess," Mrs. W. Garland Foster; "Peter Pond," H. A. Innis; "Fifty Years in Western Canada," Morice; "Canada's Western Arctic," Burwash; "Historic Posts and Trading Posts," Voorhis; "The Red Man's Wonder Book," H. A. Kennedy.

The success of the Historical Society depends upon the activity of its editors. At present about 40 men and women are generously preparing material on various subjects. Here are a few which have volunteered lately:

"Fifty Years on the Prairies," A. S. Carter, Prince Rupert.

"Swift Current," Judge Buckles, Battleford.

"Father Legoff," Rev. Father Jan, Edmonton.

"Pelly," W. Clark Sanderecock, Pelly.

"Edmonton," McCool, Edmonton.

"Southern Alberta," J. W. Morrow, Medicine Hat.

"Calgary," J. E. McLeod, Calgary.

"Archdeacon MacKay," Campbell Innes, Estevan.

"On the Souris River," Campbell Innes, Estevan.

"Fort Saskatchewan," H. A. Gibson, Fort Saskatchewan.

"Fort Qu'Appelle," Dr. Hall, Fort Qu'Appelle.

"Charlie Parker," Ruth Matheson, Winnipeg.

The Editor of "The Alberta Field Force of 1885," Colonel F. C. Jamieson, V.D., K.C., M.L.A., is an Edmonton lawyer and member of the Alberta Legislature. His military experience is as follows: A private in the Canadian Mounted Rifles in the South African War under Lt.-Col. Lawrence Herchermer, Commander of the Divisional Mounted Troops of the First Canadian Division; G.S.O.I. Sarcee Camp, July-November, 1916; with British and Canadian Recruiting Mission in the U.S.A. and as Commander of the 260th Canadian Rifles, a unit of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (Siberia), 1919. After demobilization assisted as Regimental and Brigade Commander in the reorganization of the Edmonton Militia units; unsuccessful Conservative candidate in 1926 and 1930 in Federal Riding of West Edmonton; his first study of the history of the Alberta Field Force was made for the Alberta Military Institute.

THE BATTLEFORD TRAIL

By E. Pauline Johnson

The Northwestern Territories have never looked so glorious as in this last year of Grace 1902. Never were there such turquoise skies, such golden brown acres of prairie grass, billowing away to the four points of the compass. The crisp October air caught us with the first hint of autumn as we emerged from the comfortable warmth of a drowsy sleeping car, and stepped on to the station platform at Saskatoon, where the lordly Saskatchewan River rolls away northwards and where memories crowd about you at the very mention of the town—dear little Saskatoon, which during those tempestuous days of the '85 Rebellion stretched out its arms and took the sick and wounded, the dying and the dead, right into its tiny village heart, for was it not the Hospital town again after the Batoche and Duck Lake affairs—and has not our sweet Canadian songstress, Agnes Maule Machar, immortalized it in verse? Saskatoon wears her laurels well, and they do not fade with the years, for when some old timer gets his pipe, and his recollections into activity, he will sit by the fire and tell you of those stormy days when the little settlement was a refuge for

*"The boatman on the river,
The hunter on the plain."*

We breakfasted and got our luggage into shape for the long drive into the interior, and then there was a clatter of horses and wheels outside. The crack of the "blacksnake" whip, a dash, then a halt, and "All aboard for Battleford," rang out the driver's voice, and the stage with His Majesty's Mails was at the door. And what a trail—velvety, dark soft prairie sod, devoid of stones or ruts, or hills, or hollows! The early morning sun was yellow and gleaming, the October sky cloudless, the whole world was large and limitless, at last, this was the mighty unbroken West, with the town and railroad dropping behind us and one hundred miles of prairie between us and the little historic, romance-crowned settlement of Battleford.

*By Courtesy of Mrs. W. Garland Foster,
Author of "The Mohawk Princess."*

THE COMING PUBLICATIONS

CANADIAN NORTH-WEST HISTORICAL SOCIETY proposed volumes and subjects based on the source history of the Pioneer. Subject to change—as to subject and volume. The biography and documents of prominent Old Timers will be added to these volumes, making additional numbers.

VOLUME I

Cree Rebellion of '84
Louis Cochin, O.M.I.
Canon Matheson
Story of the Press, Pt. 1
Fifty Years on the Saskatchewan
The Dominion Telegraph
The Alberta Field Force of 1885
Story of the Press, Pt. 2

VOLUME II

Fort Qu'Appelle
Early Surveys
With General Strange
Archdeacon MacKay
Fish Creek
Anglican Missions
Fort Carlton
Calgary
Coal

VOLUME III

Fort Pitt
Education
Medicine
Moose Jaw
The Police Posts
Pincher Creek
The Constitutional History
Edmonton
Oil

VOLUME IV

Pelly
Buffalo Hunting
Prince Albert
Battleford in Danger
Men of '73-74
Macleod
Presbyterian Missions
The French in the North-West
Geology
The Story of wheat.

VOLUME IX: The Early Explorers; The Hudson's Bay Company; Frog Lake; Isle a la Crosse; Pioneer Senators; Duck Lake; The Blackfeet; Indian Legends.

VOLUME X: The French in the North-West; The North West Company; The Red River Jig; Fort Chippewyan; Societies; The Stoneys; Overlanders of 1862; The Fur Trade; Swift Current; Old Timers' Register of '85.

VOLUME V

With Her Majesty's Mails
Bresaylor Settlement
Regina
Roman Catholic Missions
Land Settlement
Indian Chiefs of Treaty Days
Cut Knife Hill
Police Commissioners
In Sunshine and Storm
Methodist Missions

VOLUME VI

Early Transportation
Lethbridge
Cumberland House
Railways
The Barr Colony
The Police in the Rebellion
Indian Chiefs
Saskatchewan Trails
Colonization

VOLUME VII

Ranching
The Free Traders
Saskatoon
Alberta Leaders
Pathfinders
The Prairiewomen
Electioneering
Red River Families
In Forest and Stream

VOLUME VIII

On the Souris River
Batoche
Gold Mining
Saskatchewan Leaders
Louis Riel and His Colleagues
The Cree Indian
The Sioux
Lumbering