

Old Times Recalled

Lord Fitzgerald's Walk from Fredericton To Quebec City

Twenty-five years before the 104th Regiment made the famous march from this city to Quebec, four men, two of them officers in the 54th Regiment, stationed in this city, made the trip from this city to Quebec. In February 1799 they went through what is now the State of Maine and reached Quebec City, a distance of one hundred and seventy miles, in thirty-one days. The trip, which was full of adventure, is described by one writer as the most dangerous piece of inland navigation ever attempted.

The men who made this trip were Lord Edward Fitzgerald who came to Fredericton (then Saint Anne's) with the first regiment to arrive here—the 54th, a brother officer named Laskey, Fitzgerald's servant, a coloured man named Toney, and another servant.

A description of the trip together with a map prepared by Lord Fitzgerald was two years ago presented to the York and Sunbury Historical Society by Lord Henry Fitzgerald of Dublin.

The Daily Mail will publish this story of adventure, from day to day until it is completed. It should be valuable for historical references.

When Lord Fitzgerald volunteered for the command of the expedition from this city to Quebec he embarked on the strangest piece of inland navigation ever attempted.

One hundred and seventy miles he must pass through the primeval forest. To miss the way (where no way was visible) was to meet death. Lord Edward commanded the little troop, which consisted of an officer, younger than himself, and two men of the rank and file. Toney, of course, was of the party. Their food supply was coarse and scanty, for the double question had to be determined, what was the least that could sustain them through the journey, and what was the most that they could carry. For guide through the illimitable waste they trusted to a pocket compass. On the delicate quivering of the little morsel of magnetised iron the lives of these four men were staked with perfect confidence.

Boldly they plunged into the still depths of that illimitable tangle—more blood-chilling than the fierce ocean at its worst—in whose recesses death lurked, with hunger and cold for his attendants.

It was mid-winter when the expedition started. The snow lay thick upon the ground—soft, dry, and powdery as white sugar. The sky was of clear, distinct blue in the daytime, with vivid flushings at sunrise and sunset. At night a myriad stars burned cold and bright in the great black vault.

In Indian file the party marched, their broad snow-shoes sinking half a foot or so in the soft drift, where a man without such support would have gone down to his waist. Lord Edward

walked first for the most part. The others followed, stepping carefully in his track. The pressure of each man's foot made the track firmer for him that followed. The last man walked almost on solid ground.

At night they cleared a narrow circle of the snow, and spread the ground thickly with soft, sweet-smelling spruce leaves. A huge fire was kindled in the centre—firewood, at least, was abundant in those regions.

Within the radiant and glowing circle, hemmed around by the cold, they ate their frugal meal, of which steaming hot coffee was the chief luxury. Pipes were smoked and story and song interchanged. Then, with a pleasant chorus of "good nights," they turned on their soft, sweet-smelling couches to taste that perfect repose which only hard work can buy.

They were up with the first ray of morning, to rekindle the smouldering fire with armfuls of wood, just as the rekindled sun, peering over the globe's rim, threw a red glow across the white world.

Snow and frost! frost and snow! It grew very monotonous at last; trudging along, all day, and every day, as it seemed over the same white ground through the same interminable woods. At times the very air appeared to freeze into clear fluid ice, chill and motionless. At times there was a thin, cutting breeze that blew out of the trees and sky a cloud of frozen dust, powdered them all over white, and made them glitter in the sunshine like the figures that delight children at Christmas time.

They had been twenty-one days on the expedition—each day as like another as the miles of white forest. Their food supply was running out, and it was thought necessary to shorten the rations to make sure of their holding on to the last. They had at first grown a bit tired of corn and grease, which were the chief staple of their repast. But the first hint of scarcity converted both into luxuries—not the quality but the quantity of the food was henceforth considered.

Of game they saw little and got none. The tracks of wild animals were, indeed, abundant, but the animals themselves were missing. There had now been a hard frost and no snow-fall for a fortnight. They could not tell if the tracks they met were fresh or old, and they dared not start from their line of march in pursuit of game that had perhaps vanished from the place a fortnight ago.

Lord Edward, as chief of the expedition, felt the food dearth most keenly, for his comrades' sake rather than for his own. The thought of their peril often broke his rest at night when a hard day's march enjoined sleep.

One such night he lay with eyes wide open, and senses alive to the sweet smell of the spruce bed and the quiet beauty of the night, while his comrades, soothed by the kindly ministrations of "nature's soft nurse" were as still as the earth's bosom where they lay, and as insensible.

(To be continued)

EVENTS LEADING UP TO WARFARE IN ETHIOPIA

The following events trace the growth of the Italian-Ethiopian conflict:

—1934—

Sept. 29—Italian Government issues dual statements pledging both Italy and Ethiopia to refrain from any acts of aggression.

Nov. 17—Italy protests attack by a mob on Italian Consulate.

Nov. 23—Ethiopia pays indemnity.

Dec. 5—Italian and Ethiopian troops clash near Walwal.

—1935—

Jan. 11—Ethiopia appeals to League for intervention.

Jan. 23—Italy blames Ethiopia for massacre of 97 in French Somaliland.

Feb. 11—Mussolini mobilizes 250,000 soldiers, and orders 50 aeroplanes to Eritrean border.

Feb. 12—Ethiopia charges Italian machine gunners attacked Ethiopian patrol.

Feb. 13—Italy and Ethiopia agree to establish neutral zone and appoint a boundary commission.

March 19—League urges both nations to refrain from war.

May 24—League Council adopts resolutions arranging arbitration.

July 1—Anthony Eden reveals he has offered strip of British territory as peace gesture.

July 9—Italy-Ethiopian conciliation commission adjourns indefinitely.

July 31—Eden, Laval and Litvinoff fail to agree on League formula as Council meets in extraordinary session.

Aug. 3—Ethiopia but not Italy, accepts League peace plan.

Aug. 9—Great Britain warns British to leave Ethiopia.

Aug. 15—Italy tells Great Britain military occupation of Ethiopia is Italy's minimum demand.

Aug. 23—Selassie offers Italy province of Aussa.

Aug. 26—Mussolini warns sanctions mean war.

Aug. 29—British move ships in the Mediterranean.

Aug. 30—Francis M. Rickett, British promoter, reveals he has secured Ethiopian exploitation concessions covering half the country for interests which included Standard Vacuum Oil Co.

Aug. 31—Great Britain asks concession be withdrawn. President Roosevelt signs neutrality resolution to embargo arms.

Sept. 3—U. S. government announced oil company has withdrawn concession.

Sept. 4—Italian delegates leave League Council session.

Sept. 11—Sir Samuel Hoare pledges British support of League covenant "in its entirety".

Sept. 13—Laval tells League Assembly France will defend covenant obligations. South African delegates warns Black Africa may be aroused by illegal African partition.

Sept. 17—Great Britain moves vessels to Gibraltar and Mediterranean points as a precautionary measure. Haile Selassie refuses to accept any tripartite protectorate.

Sept. 18—League proposes peace plan, declined by Italy in advance.

Sept. 25—Italy and Britain exchange good-will assurances.

Sept. 26—League Council, acting without Italy, unanimously votes to take action under Article XV of the Covenant, warning Italy and Ethiopia any hostilities before December 4 automatically will put aggressor in status of committing act of war against all League members.

Oct. 1—Italian Minister to Addis Ababa orders consulates evacuated.

Oct. 2—Mussolini mobilizes Italian nation, declaring: "We will answer war with war". Ethiopia tells League Italians have crossed border.

Oct. 3—Emperor Haile Selassie orders general mobilization. Ethiopian towns bombed.

Lt. Governor's Tribute to the Late Dr. W. A. Ferguson

Hon. Murray MacLaren, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick, pays the following tribute to his fellow-townsmen, the late Dr. W. A. Ferguson, who passed away at his home in Moncton on Wednesday last:

Lieutenant-Governor's Office, 75 Coburg Street, Saint John, N. B., Oct. 4th, 1935.

To the Editor of the Moncton Times: The City of Moncton and Province of New Brunswick has lost a distinguished citizen and foremost surgeon in the death of Dr. W. A. Ferguson. For years he has held a prominent position in the medical profession. With his fine ability he kept closely in touch with the advances of modern surgery.

On many occasions when we have met there was reference to the fact that we both were born in the same town, Richibucto, our birthdays were the same day and year, April 30th, 1861, and the same physician, my father, brought us both into the world. We graduated in medicine in the same year, 1884, Dr. W. A. Ferguson from McGill and myself from Edinburgh. For many years therefore I have followed with great interest the career and welfare of our distinguished surgeon and my contemporary, so well known throughout the Province. It has ever been a matter of satisfaction to me that he attained such an eminent position.

I write you this appreciation on the regretful occasion of the loss which the Province has sustained of a very distinguished member of the medical profession.

Yours sincerely, MURRAY MacLAREN.

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt, Oct. 8—Exporters here disclosed that for the last three days they have received urgent demands from Italy for Egyptian cotton.

The demands, they said, were evidently due to fear of a possible blockade, in which case Italy would be unable to obtain cotton for the manufacture of motor tires, tents, uniforms and other war material.

British exporters have declined to ship, because the Italians have refused to pay in advance, but Italian shippers are complying with the demands. A total of 4,054 bales were loaded here for Italy recently.

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