Gen. Braddock's Defeat.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.)

The French crossed Lake Erie in 1753 and built fortifications at Presque Isle, now Erie, Pennsylvania, and advanced toward the Northern branches of the Ohio river. To protest against this movement, Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia sent Major George Washington, one of the Adjutant Generals of Provincial Militia, to the Commanding Officer of the French expedition, St. Pierre.

St. Pierre's reply was that the Marquis Du Quesne, Governor General of Canada would be notified of the protest and until he was heard from the French forces would remain where they were.

On his way to the French expedition Washington had noted the strategical importance of a point at the juncture of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers and had recommended its fortification. A fort was in course of erection when the French captured the place, completed its fortification and named it Fort Duquesne.

Washington heard of the French action and was also informed that a scouting party under Jumonville was advancing. He captured this force after a fight in which Jumonville was killed. He then retired to Great Meadows where he threw up breast works to which he gave the name "Fort Necessity." After being attacked here for nine hours by a greatly superior force Washington withdrew, leaving the French in possession of the territory.

The protection of the English colonies in America was the especial concern of the Duke of Cumberland, Captain-General of the British Army, and was a matter of the gravest importance to Parliament. The news of the fall of Fort Necessity spread a fever of excitement and activity throughout all England.

On September 24, 1754 Edward Braddock was commissioned a Major General, and soon afterward embarked at Cork for America, with the 44th. Foot under Colonel Sir. Peter Halket and the 48th. Foot commanded by Colonel Thomas Dunbar. They arrived at Hampton Roads on February 20, 1755, Braddock proceeding at once to Williamsburg, where he made his headquarters, and the army continuing up the Potomac to Alexandria. This movement was supported by the fleet of Admiral Boscawen, for whom one of our streets was named. He encountered and defeated a French fleet.

Braddock was intrusted with the command of the entire British campaign, being appointed for the purpose, Generallissimo of all the forces in the Colonies. He had been a member of the famous Coldstream Guards for more than forty years, was a veteran of Colloden, Fontenoy, Dettingen and was known as a famous disciplinarian and as an expert upon the technical practises of warfare. His whole experience being obtained in campaigns against enemies who followed the rules of war obtaining among civilized nations, Braddock never imagined that any other principles of strategy could be effective. From the first he began his preparations for campaign precisely as he would have done were he then engaged against some European army. He seemd to expect that the roads and towns and even the very forests would be such as he had known in England.

The plan which Braddock was to carry out had four objects

1. To drive the French from Nova Scotia.

2. To dislodge them from their fort at Crown Point on Lake Champlain.

3. To dispossess them of their fort at Niagara between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie.

4. To drive them from the frontiers of Pennsylvania.

The Deputy Quarter Master General, Lieutenant Colonel Sir John St. Clair, arrived in America before Braddock, to inspect the field of operations. He made a tour of inspection with Governor Sharpe of Maryland and was horrified at the wild state of the country. In February 1755 he wrote from Cumberland to Governor Morris of Pennsylvania to have the road repaired toward the Youghiogeny river and another opened from Philadelphia for the transpeake, on its way to Alexandria. There were two regiments of British regulars of 500 men each, which were to be increased to 700 each by men selected by St. Clair from the Virginia forces; artillery and munitions of war conveyed by Keppel. To this force Governor Dinwiddie assured Braddock there would be added about 400 Indians. There were assurances also thought from other sources, that immense quantities of provisions, horses and wagons would be forthcoming at the proper time. Relying upon this Braddock proceeded to Alexandria.

The British troops had disembarked and the Virginia troops had all arrived when Braddock reached Alexandria. Besides these there were two companies of pioneers; six companies of rangers and one troop of light Horse. The levies were clothed and sent to Winchester to be armed, under command of an Ensign of the 44th. Foot who was enjoined "to make them as like soldiers as possible."

George Washington was at Mt. Vernon while these preparations were going forward at Alexandria, and Braddock hearing of his experience and knowledge of the country invited him to accompany the expedition as a member of his staff. Washington accepted and upon arriving at the camp his first impression was one of amazement that the expedition should be trammelled with so huge an amount of baggage and paraphernalia.

On April 20th Braddock set out from Alexandria. He had been disappointed in the number of horses and wagons provided and in the quantity of provisions delivered to him.

Fortunately when Braddock reached Frederick, Maryland, he there met Benjamin Franklin who was then Postmaster General for America. Franklin agreed to procure horses and wagons, 150 wagons and 4 horses to each to be at Will's Creek, now Cumberland by May 20th. Franklin spoke to Braddock of his fear that the slender line nearly four miles long which his army must make, would expose him to ambuscade from Indians. Braddock replied, "These savages may indeed be a formidable enemy to raw American militia, but up the king's regular and disciplined troops it is impossible they should make an impression."

After Franklin's departure, Braddock attended by his staff and escort of light horse set out for Will's creek by way of Winchester the road along the north side of the Potomac not being yet made. "This gave him" writes Washington "a good opportunity to see the absurdity of the route and of damning it very heartily." Washington had overtaken Braddock at Frederick and proceeded with him to Winchester, and wrote a letter to William Fairfax from Winchester on May 5 in which he says "we shall remain here until the arrival of the 2nd division which we hear left Alexandria on Tuesday last."

Washington had three horses knocked up before reaching Winchester and had to buy others, for which he had to borrow money from his old friend Lord Fairfax of Greenway Court. The fact that Braddock traveled the whole way from Alexandria to Fort Cumberland in great state in a chariot purchased from Governor Sharpe added greatly to his discomfort, but at last realizing that he was not in a region fitted for such display he abandoned his chariot there and took to his horse.

By the 19th of May the forces were assembled at Fort Cumberland; they consisted of

Two Royal regiments of Foot 1000 strong increased by Virginia levies to 1400, two Provincial Companies of Pioneers 30 men each; one company of Guides, Captain, two aides and ten men; Troop of Virginia light Horse under Captain Stewart; detachment of sailors consisting of 30 men; remnants of two New York companies.

The Indians which Dinwiddie had led Braddock to expect never arrived. The road from Philadelphia was not finished and the necessary forage and supplies had never been provided and there was a woeful lack of wagons and horses. At last, however force and for ten days 600 men under Colonel Chapman had been preparing a road supervised by Sir John St. Clair.

On the 16th Braddock reached Little Meadows, and now seeing that the nature of the country was unlike that of any he had had any experience with, he called upon Washington for advice as to the best course to be pursued. Washington saw the advantage of striking a blow at Fort Du Quesne, if struck swiftly. He advised dividing the forces. One division, of selected men, to push ahead with Braddock the rest to follow on with the baggage, etc. Braddock for once followed advice and with 1200 men selected from all the forces and carrying 10 field pieces, prepared to move forward.

At Little Meadows Braddock was joined by the Famous Captain Jack and his rangers who asked that he and his men be employed as a scouting party. Braddock refused. Washington urged as strongly as the proprieties would permit, that all the friendly Indians be employed as reconnoitering parties; this also Braddock refused, and indeed treated the Indians with such contempt that most of them deserted him.

It was on the 19th. that Braddock set out from Little Meadows. He marched in the way he had been accustomed to march over the plains and roads of Europe and would not listen to any suggestions that his mode of procedure was unfitted for the wilderness.

(To be concluded.)

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The Big Guns Have Short Lives

LONDON, May 29.—In a lecture on modern artillery at the Royal Institution recently, Lieutenant-Colonel Hadcock of Elswick contrasted the life of big guns with that of a butterfly.

In the case of the latter he supposed that 24 hours would be old age. The big gun, on the other hand looked everlasting but it only lived when it was being fired, and if an incessant stream of projectiles could be poured out from it its active life in that sense would be only 12 seconds.

1816 Was A Year Without A Summer

The year 1816 was known throughout the United States as the year without a summer. January of that year was so mild that most people