

## TEA TIME TALK

(Continued on page six)

Thompson had succeeded Col. Humphries as Indian Agent and was in charge of affairs at Fort King. General Thompson was finding considerable unrest among the Indians. They were dissatisfied with the terms of the treaty of Paynes Landing. They claimed for the most part that such a treaty was unauthorized and that the chiefs who signed had no right to do so for the tribe as a whole. They contended that the treaty of Camp Moultrie was the only one by which they were bound. They objected to leaving Florida, for the west. General Jackson, who had now become President of the United States, was firm, however, in his demand for migration. And he was insistent on the Paynes Landing treaty being observed to the letter. Fearing an out-break Gen. Thompson early in 1835 requested re-inforcements for his little camp at Fort King. But in those days communications travelled slowly, and it was not until just before Christmas in 1835 the relief expedition set out from Fort Brook (Tampa) under command of Major Dade.

By this time Osceola, though not a chief, by sheer force of character had developed strong leadership among his race. He wielded a powerful influence over the minds of his people and he had a personal grievance against General Thompson. His great mistake in life was having two wives. One of these wives was the daughter of a run-away slave which had been harbored by the Indians. While visiting Fort King with his wife for the purpose of getting supplies this wife was seized and delivered to the slave owner. Osceola resented this act and fiercely contended for his own. The result was that he was confined by General Thompson. He slyly pretended repentance for his error and was liberated. He then began a campaign among his people.

### Story of the Massacre

Osceola began to lay plans to free his people from the dominion of the white men, and this massacre of Dade and his men was a part of his program. Realizing the restless attitude of the Indians and the meagre defense he had at Fort King, General Wiley Thompson early in 1835 had asked for re-inforcements. But not until late in December was there a definite response to his request. On December 23rd Major Francis L. Dade with one hundred and eight men and officers set out from Fort Brook (Tampa) to go to Fort King (Ocala). On the night of December 27th they had crossed the Withlacoochee river and camped at a small lake about six miles below where the Dade Park is now located. This spot is now known as "Dade's Breakfast Pond". The next morning Dade made his men an address and told them they had now passed the danger line, no doubt meaning the river, and that by night they would reach their destination. Evidently the Major did not know his geography nor the habitat of the Seminoles, for they had barely covered half the distance and were just nearing the stronghold of the Indians. But the men believed, as did the Major, and the weather being cold were marching with overcoats over their accoutrements. They did not take the precaution to have advance flank guards. The Indians made the attack in an open pinebarren where it would be least expected, and in the broad open day time, contrary to their usual plan of ambush, so that it was a complete surprise for the white men. From Sprague's History of the Florida Indian Wars I take this account of the battle:

The narrative, as received from Halpatter-Tustenuggee or Alligator, of this melancholy occurrence, forms an interesting detail of the movements and designs of the Indians:

"We had", says he, "been preparing for this more than a year. Though promises had been made to assemble on the 1st of January, it was not to leave the country, but to fight for it. In council, it was determined to strike a decided blow about this time. Our agent at Fort King had put irons on our men, and said we must go. Osceola said he was his friend, he would see to him. It was determined that he should attack Fort King in order to reach General Thompson, then return to the Wahoo Swamp and participate in the assault meditated upon the

soldiers coming from Fort Brooke, as the negroes there had reported that two companies were preparing to march. He was detained longer than we anticipated. The troops were three days on their march and approaching the Swamp. Here we thought it best to assail them; and should we be defeated the swamp would be a safe place of retreat. Our scouts were out from the time the soldiers left the post and reported each night their place of encampment. It was our intention to attack them on the third night, but the absence of Osceola and Micanopy prevented it. On the arrival of the latter it was agreed not to wait for Osceola, as the favorable moment would pass. Micanopy was timid, and urged delay. Jumper earnestly opposed it, and reproached the old chief for his indecision. He addressed the Indians, and requested those who had faint hearts to remain behind; he was going, when Micanopy said he was ready. Just as day was breaking we moved out of the swamp into the pine-barren. I counted, by direction of Jumper, one hundred and eighty warriors. Upon approaching the road, each man chose his position on the west side; opposite, on the east side, there was a pond. Every warrior was protected by a tree, or secreted in the high palmettos. In advance some distance, was an officer on a horse, who, Micanopy said, was the captain; he knew him personally; had been his friend in Tampa. So soon as all the soldiers were opposite, between us and the pond, perhaps twenty yards off, Jumper gave the whoop. Micanopy fired the first rifle, the signal agreed upon, when every Indian arose and fired, which laid upon the ground, dead, more than half the white men. The cannon was discharged several times, but the men who loaded it were shot down as soon as the smoke cleared away; the balls passed far over our heads. The soldiers shouted and whooped and the officers shook their swords and swore. There was a little man, a great brave, who shook his sword at the soldiers and said "God-dam" no rifle-ball could hit him. As we were returning to the swamp, supposing all were dead, an Indian came up and said the white men were building a fort of logs. Jumper and myself, with ten warriors, returned. As we approached, we saw six men behind two logs placed one above another, with the cannon a short distance off. This discharged at us several times, but we avoided it by dodging behind the trees just as they applied the fire. We soon came near, as the balls went over us. They had guns, but no powder; we looked in the boxes afterwards and found they were empty. When I got inside the log-pen, there were three white men alive, whom the negroes put to death, after a conversation in English. There was a brave man in the pen; he would not give up; he seized an Indian, Jumper's cousin, took away his rifle, and with one blow with it beat out his brains, then ran some distance up the road; but two Indians on horseback overtook him, who, afraid to approach, stood at a distance and shot him down. The firing had ceased, and all was quiet when we returned to the swamp about noon. We left many negroes upon the ground looking at the dead men. Three warriors were killed and five wounded."

"Osceola returned on the night of the 28th of December to the Wahoo Swamp. His party were loaded with all kinds of goods, and their bodies decorated with some trophy, to make known their atrocious acts. Scalps were suspended from their girdles, the warm blood still dripping; others hung them on their heads and necks besmearing their persons with blood, which, aided by their distorted and haggard countenances, gave to the entire group a most hideous aspect. The night was spent in a boisterous and joyful manner. The scalps were given up to the great medicine-chief, Illis-higher-Hadjo, who arranged them upon a pole ten feet in height, around which they exultingly danced till daylight, accompanying their frantic mirth by songs, ridiculing and defying white men. Liquors of all kinds had been obtained, and many were beastly intoxicated. Speeches were addressed by the most humorous of the company to the scalp of General Thompson, imitating his gestures and manner of talking to them in council."

Ransom Clark, severely wounded,

after a painful journey finally got back to Fort Brook and reported the tragedy.

On February 20, 1836, a body of soldiers under command of General Gaines came up from Tampa and gathered up the bodies of Dade and his men and buried them within the little log pen or fort where they had made their last fight. In 1842 the bodies were removed to St. Augustine and interred in the Federal Cemetery at the Barracks. The three pyramids in the cemetery mark their last resting place.

After the bodies were removed to St. Augustine the place of their sacrifice seemed forgotten. Nothing was done to preserve the spot. In time the little log fort rotted away. The road over which they were making their solemn march to the grave was abandoned and the pine forest furnished food for the saw mill. Beautiful wide-spreading oaks grew up to form "Nature's Monument" to the soldiers. The country became more populated and the farmer began encroachments upon the sacred grounds, but something seemed to stay the axe and most of the beautiful trees were left, making a natural park.

In 1921 the Florida Legislature made a small appropriation to purchase eighty acres of land, embracing the battle field, and established a State Memorial Park. From time to time other appropriations have been made to maintain and improve the park. The little log fort has been reproduced of concrete logs so nearly resembling pine logs that visitors often think them real. Monuments have been placed to show where officers fell. A general monument for all of the men has been built of native rock, surmounted by the figure of a soldier in the uniform of that time. A recreation hall is always open for visitors. A winding brook has been rock-lined. An artificial lake, many little bridges and two large ones for autos, some drives, fountains and other ornaments have been placed about. Most everything has been built of native rock, with a view to permanence and

typical of the rugged bravery of those soldiers. We have tried to make the park a fitting memorial to those brave men, to enshrine in the hearts of future generations their heroic valor and patriotism.

### Let Us Be Generous to the Vanquished

While thus we honor our own soldiers, justice demands that we do not forget those free sons of the forest who by the cruel fate of war were driven from their haunts. It is the immutable law of progress that in every age and clime the superior race must dominate, and sooner or later the story is ever the same, the primitive must yield domain. Still, always there is something pathetic in the lasting tragedy of even savage surrendering his all, and bidding adieu forever to the land that was once his own.

The outstanding character of all the Seminoles, and indeed a man of renown, was Osceola, a name which fitted him well, meaning "Rising Sun", for such he was to his people, and when, while yet a young man, he literally died of a broken heart, the bright rays of hope he had brought to his people vanished. In the park is a "home-made" statue of this brave. The work is that of a novice, but the face was fashioned from a copy of the death mask, obtained from Washington, so that you may be sure the features are correctly portrayed. In the Tustenuggee Lodge, Dade Memorial Park, is a portrait of the Indian Chief Micanopy. This is a replica of the original painting by the great artist Catlin, which is in the art gallery at Washington City. It is worth a long trip to see as a work of art. Micanopy fired the first shot in the massacre, the one that killed Major Dade.

### Cook's Regulating Compound

A safe, reliable regulating medicine. Sold in three degrees of strength—No. 1, \$1; No. 2, \$2; No. 3, \$3 per box. Sold by all druggists, or sent prepaid on receipt of price. Free pamphlet. Address: THE COOK MEDICINE CO. TORONTO, ONT. (Formerly Windsor)

## DORNOCH

(Intended for last week)

Miss Muriel Heft has returned to Toronto after spending her vacation at her home here.

Mrs. John Barry sr. has gone to Detroit to spend the winter months at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Bernard Coffield.

Miss Bessie Campbell of Toronto spent New Year's day with her niece, Miss Florence Robertson.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kenny and children, Murray and Marie, visited on New Year's day with Mr. and Mrs. John Barry.

Mr. and Mrs. John L. Corlett spent Saturday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Smith.

Mrs. John Lang visited with Mrs. Dargavel over the week-end.

Miss Mary Darcey spent Sunday with her cousin, Miss Margaret Moran.

Mrs. Henry McCracken has returned after spending a couple of weeks with her daughter, Mrs. R. Lockwood, at Owen Sound.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Lang spent Saturday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lister.

## IRISH LAKE

(Intended for last week)

Miss Ada Eagles spent Christmas at her home here.

Mr. Joe Campbell visited Sunday with the Martin family.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cherry spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. David Symes.

Miss Madeline Moore re-opened her school on Friday after spending the holidays at her home in Holland Centre.

Mr. Murdy Burnett of Cherry Grove has been helping Mr. James Leitch to buzz wood.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. John Thibaudeau on their fortieth wedding anniversary.

A pleasant evening was spent at Glenelg Parish Hall on New Year's night to welcome Walter Dunbar and bride, who were married recently in Toronto.

## The Markdale Standard Suggests You



Here is a real offer that will save you money . . . Give yourself and your family lasting enjoyment and entertainment the whole year through . . . This is all you have to do.

Select any 3 of the following Famous Magazines

and you will receive the whole 4 publications for one year from the date we receive the coupon. Here is the amazing combination low price.

**\$2.50**

Our Guarantee to You!

This wonderful offer is available to old and new subscribers to this newspaper. We guarantee the fulfillment of all magazine subscriptions and you have positive assurance that this generous offer is exactly as represented. Renewals will be extended for full term shown.

- Current Thought . . 1 yr.
- Pictorial Review . . . 1 yr.
- Canadian Magazine 1 yr.
- National Home Monthly . . . . . 1 yr.
- Canadian Horticulture & Home Magazine 1 yr.

MAIL COUPON TODAY

Please clip list of Magazines after checking 3 Publications desired. Fill out coupon carefully.  
Gentlemen: I enclose \$..... Please send me the three magazines checked with a year's subscription to your newspaper.  
NAME .....  
STREET OR R.F.D. ....  
TOWN AND PROVINCE .....

