

the men had already exhibited led him to entertain the assurance that he would not find them lacking in all that should characterize the soldier. They had one motive, one desire, and that was to do their duty to their Queen and country." He dwelt on the necessity of strict obedience on the part of the men, and of consideration on the part of the officers. Finally he warned them against the use of intoxicating beverages, and hoped that any who might happen to have provided themselves with such would at once throw it away.

His remarks were greeted with hearty cheers.

Then comes the order, "Fours; quick march"; the bands strike up, the men step firmly out, and with all Toronto at their head, at their sides, at their rear, they march to the train.

And at the station—what a scene! Ten thousand people are already there; on the pavements, in the road, on the roofs, everywhere. Two engines with long trains stand hissing on the rails. On these all eyes are turned. In the baggage vans are being placed all sorts of stores, and men in scarlet jackets and dark green uniforms give sharp orders. Then comes the sound of music, the bands turn the corner, the troops come in sight, and a great cheer goes up. The crowd gives way, and in a few moments the soldiers take their seats in the trains. A few minutes' pause ensues, Colonel Otter is seen, telegrams in hand, superintending all. At length the order is given to start, and at twenty-five minutes past twelve the trains move out of the city, their noise drowned in the continued and tumultuous cheering which follows them. They are off. Shakes are waved from the carriages, and handkerchiefs from the balconies. Here a friend grasps for the last time the hand of his friend, and there a pair of soft eyes look for the last time into the eyes of her friend, but tears are held back. Again and again the ringing cheer breaks out, and as it dies away the troops have gone.

And this scene is repeated all through Canada. The news from almost every town in Canada is stirring in the extreme. At London, on Tuesday, March 31st, great excitement was created by the receipt of a telegram from Ottawa calling out the 7th Battalion. The order read as follows:—"Call out 7th Battalion for immediate active service and report action and result. (Signed), CARON, Minister of Militia."

Buglers were at once sent out, officers were notified, and in a very few minutes the drill shed was thronged with an eager, excited crowd of volunteers and their friends, many of whom had been aroused from their beds by the bugle's blast. The news spreads rapidly among the already deeply interested citizens, and soon every thoroughfare leading to the drill shed is thronged with eager, anxious friends. Before leaving the drill shed the men are addressed by Col. Aylmer, Major Beecher, W. R. Meredith, M.P.F., and Rev. A. J. Murray, of St. Andrew's Church. The few final preparations necessary completed, and to the stirring strains of their excellent band the 7th, at 3 p.m., start on their way. Their reception as they marched down Richmond street to the depot was one continuous ovation. Every available foot of space on the roadway and sidewalk was occupied by the eager throng, while the doorsteps, balconies, windows, and roofs along the route were utilized by deeply interested spectators. At the station a train of nine cars was in waiting for the men, who speedily took their places, and amid the cheers and hearty good wishes of the vast assemblage, the brave fellows were rapidly borne away towards their destination.

The 65th Battalion Mount Royal Rifles, 250 picked men under Lieutenant-Colonel Oumet, leave Montreal on the Wednesday.

A company of sharpshooters from the Governor-General's Foot Guards, fifty strong, leave Ottawa by the noon train on the Tuesday for the scene of action.

At midnight of Sunday, April 5th, orders reach Kingston that the Provisional Battalion should leave for the North-west. The hour of departure is immediately fixed for eight o'clock. The regiment mustered 362 men and 34 officers. Great was the assembly of people to see the volunteers off, and loud the cheering as the train pulled out of the station.

At Belleville, Colonel Lazier was invited to organize a company made up from the 15th battalion for service in the North-west, and a meeting of the officers was held, when all volunteered. The colonel then asked the government to accept the whole battalion, but received answer that but one company could be taken. Shortly before 10 on the morning of Sunday, March 29th, the battalion was summoned by the ringing of the fire alarm and a splendid turn out made in the armory. At 2 p.m. Colonel Lazier received orders to have his men ready to start for Kingston on Monday morning on receipt of instructions.

The York Rangers and Simcoe Foresters, too, are called out. The 12th battalion of York, Colonel Wyndham commanding, and the 35th battalion of Simcoe, Colonel O'Brien, M.P., commanding, were notified at a late hour on Monday night, March 30th, that they would be each required to furnish four companies for active service in the North-west. The order was received with enthusiasm by the men. Colonel O'Brien commanded the joint force, numbering nearly 350 men. The second officer, was Colonel Tyrwhitt, M.P., junior colonel of the 35th; and Colonel Wyndham ranked as junior major.

From the counties of Durham and Victoria also come volunteers. Colonel A. T. H. Williams, M.P., who volunteered a regiment for service in the Sudan, was ordered to form one for the North-west. He selected his men from his own, the 46th Battalion, the 45th and the 40th. The 46th represents East Durham, with

headquarters at Port Hope; the 45th West Durham and Victoria, with headquarters at Bowmanville; and the 40th, Northumberland, with headquarters at Cobourg. The battalion comprised eight companies, and two guns manned by the Durham field battery of Port Hope.

So it goes on in numberless towns and cities. Each sends its quota of fighting men amid the enthusiasm, even envy, of those left behind, and Canada drew liberally upon all her resources, so much so that, within a fortnight of the time of first calling on the troops, General Middleton was expected to have 3,232 men under his command, composed as follows:—

90th Batt., Winnipeg.....	300
Winnipeg Field Battery.....	60
"A" and "B" Batteries.....	200
Queen's Own and 10th Royals, Toronto	560
"C" Infantry School.....	86
9th Batt., Quebec.....	280
65th Batt., Montreal.....	340
Midland Batt.....	396
35th Batt., Col. O'Brien.....	360
Ottawa Sharpshooters.....	50
Col. Smith's Batt., Winnipeg.....	340
Col. Scott's Batt., Winnipeg.....	26

THE FIRST BLOOD.

What was it, however, that caused the government thus suddenly to resort to such extreme measures? Up to this time affairs in the more eastern Provinces had been quiet enough. Disaffection, it was known, existed in the North-west, but few thought it of sufficient magnitude or importance to necessitate the raising of an armed force. What, then, was it that prompted the authorities to order between three and four thousand men—infantry, cavalry, and artillery, to the front? It was the overt act of bloodshed perpetrated at Duck Lake.

The events prior to this, however, must first be briefly noted.

The first definite public assertion as to the reality and magnitude of the uprising were received on the 22nd of March. A despatch from Prince Albert received at Winnipeg stated that the rising of the Saskatchewan half-breeds was a most serious affair. They had been joined by large numbers of Indians and had taken possession of all the government stores at Carleton, and had made prisoners of officials and even threatened the fort there. In the House that night Mr. Blake asked whether it was true that the half-breeds under Riel had risen in rebellion at Prince Albert, had imprisoned officials, that the government knew of this action, that assistance had been asked by the settlers, and that the Winnipeg battery had been ordered out? Sir John Macdonald answered it was true the half-breeds had cut the wires between Qu'Appelle and the South Saskatchewan river and had imprisoned the telegraph operators. This action was said to be because of a letter stating that Riel was not a British subject. The government knew nothing of such a letter. The Winnipeg field battery had not been ordered out. Capt. Crozier was close by at Carleton with a hundred men of the Mounted Police, and ninety men had been ordered there. The government thought this number would be sufficient to quell any disturbance.

On the following day the news from the disaffected regions was meagre in the extreme, but inclined towards a reassuring aspect. The reports, however, were conflicting. It was that grossly exaggerated stories had been sent to both the Canadian and United States press. No conflict it was said had taken place, although with the wires cut in several places it was impossible to describe the exact situation, a despatch from Battleford intimated that Col. Irvine was expected to form a conjunction with Major Crozier from Carleton, at a crossing on the south branch of the Saskatchewan river, opposite Duck Lake, where Riel was supposed to be entrenched.

Raids were believed to have been made on the stores of the Hudson bay posts and the Indian agents, and the officials arrested to be held as hostages. The telegraph lines were cut and the operators arrested to prevent communication with the Mounted Police posts. Two hundred police arrived at the scene of the troubles. The Indians had not then been induced to join the rebels. Piapot was the only chief of whom the authorities were afraid, as Riel and his agents had been operating with the Indians north of Regina and Qu'Appelle with some success. Poundmaker and Big Bear were two hundred miles northwest of the scene of the troubles and not likely to be induced to rebel.

Nevertheless the militia authorities at Winnipeg were moving with alacrity. A rifle regiment, three hundred strong, was under arms. A hundred and twenty-five men of the Rifles under command of Major Boswell, Captains Rattan and Clark, embarked for Qu'Appelle. Matters soon looked more threatening. The daily papers assigned the chief place to the north-west news, despite the critical state and absorbingly interesting Russo-Afghan difficulty. Some went so far as to head the Winnipeg despatches on the 26th March with the ominous title, "Our Own War."

On that date the Premier in answer to questions endeavoured to allay fears. Replying to Mr. Blake, Sir John Macdonald said he thought a junction between the forces of Col. Irvine and Capt. Crozier had been made. There would then be 250 Mounted Police on the ground. In addition there were forty volunteers from Prince Albert. One hundred men of the 90th were now on the road to Qu'Appelle, and if necessary, they could be reinforced by 200 more of the same regiment and the

Winnipeg field battery. He thought there was no serious danger to be apprehended so long as the half-breeds were not joined by the Indians, and so far all information in the possession of the Government went to prove that the Indians were peaceable. Riel had great influence over the half-breeds and some over the Indians, but the Blackfeet and other bands were indignant at being accused of taking part in the disturbance. He thought Riel had raised this trouble for personal reasons. Some time ago he had offered to retire quietly from the country if the Government would give him \$5,000, but of course the proposition was not entertained. A commissioner had been appointed to consider claims of the half-breeds, and the Government expected no serious trouble in settling the disturbance.

On the following morning, however, Saturday, March 28th, came a telegram that startled everybody—the account of the overt acts of hostilities perpetrated at Duck Lake. This roused the public and the Government, and it is almost safe to say that at a few minutes' notice a call to arms was sounded throughout the Dominion.

The battle of Duck Lake claims our closer attention.

Duck Lake, the scene of the shedding of the first blood, is 13½ miles south-east of Fort Carlton, 45 miles south-west of Prince Albert, 6 miles from "Fisher's," and 12 miles from "Gabriel's" crossing on the South Branch.

It was established some years ago by Stobart & Eden, wholesale merchants of Winnipeg, as a trading post to catch the local trade of Indian reserves in the vicinity, as well as that of the large half-breed settlement that extends from there to the South Branch, and has lately been in charge of Hilliard Mitchell, who formerly had charge of another post for the same firm at Lesser Slave Lake.

The "post" consists of eight or nine one-storey, whitewashed log buildings surrounded by an ornamental sparred fence in front, and by common rail fences on the other three sides, and as it possesses no stockade or other artificial defence it is entirely unprotected and open to any attack that may be made upon it.

The proper name of the place, as known in the post-office directory, is Stobart P.O., being named after one of the original founders, and is a name that everyone must concede is far more suitable at the present time than that of "Eden" would have been. It is commonly known, however, as "Duck Lake," after a long, low, marshy sheet of water of that name which stretches out to the west immediately behind it, and which is the annual resort during the summer season of thousands of waterfowl.

The country between Duck Lake and Fort Carlton rises gradually as the North Branch is approached. The surface is of a quietly undulating character, covered with scattered bluffs of poplar and low willow shrubbery, which, in connection with the rich and loamy nature of the underlying soil, presents an attractive picture to the intending settler. On the other side, from Duck Lake to the South Branch, the country is of an entirely different character, the soil being much lighter and covered with bluffs of "Jack" pine and poplar, which become thicker as the South Branch is approached, where, uniting into larger and more imposing masses, they cover the high and precipitous banks of the stream from many miles above Fisher's Crossing down to the point of junction with the North Branch—the "Forks" of the Saskatchewan.

The half-breed settlement, which commences at Duck Lake, extends in a more or less scattered condition all the way to the South Branch, up and down both banks of which, in the vicinity of the crossings, their small log cabins and insignificant farms mutilate the landscape. While a great many of these men and their families have settled permanently here since the departure of the buffalo, their numbers have been greatly augmented by the addition of many families of Manitoba half-breeds, who, after selling their claims and pushing onward in advance of the tide of white emigration, settled in this district and are now asking for another claim, on obtaining which another sale would doubtless ensue, followed by a grand "scurry" for the Peace River country or some other place.

Here it was that the rebel half-breeds and the whites first came in contact.

This battle, like almost every other part of the rebellion, has been described in every variety of manner. According to some reports, the insurgents out-numbered the loyalists by nearly seven to one; according to other figures the very reverse of these are given. Some say the whites under Major Crozier were the unprovoked assailants; others, that the rebels were so blood-thirsty that even a flag of truce was disregarded.

The first news that arrived concerning this skirmish is well worth recording. It was stated in terse, staccato style, well fitted to rouse public excitement, and after reports did not materially alter its details. What the public read at breakfast-time on that Saturday morning was something like the following:—"The half-breed rebellion in the North-west has assumed alarming proportions. A fight occurred at Duck Lake between Capt. Crozier's command (Mounted Police) and the rebels under Riel, in which ten volunteers and two constables were killed and eleven others wounded. The rebel losses are not known. Intense excitement prevails throughout the North-west. The news created a sensation in Ottawa, where it was learned late in the afternoon, just before dinner. Orders were at once given for calling out the regular forces stationed at Quebec,

* See letter to *Globe* by A. W. K., Tuesday, April 3rd, 1885.

Kingston and Toronto, as well as the Queen's Own and Royal Grenadiers. B Battery has already left Quebec. The men will be sent over the Canadian Pacific railway. Nearly 300 additional militia have also been sent forward to the scene of the trouble. After recess, in the Commons, Sir John Macdonald rose and stated that he had received messages from Col. Irvine, to the effect that he had arrived at Carlton. The telegram did not mention the date of his arrival. Capt. Crozier had gone to Duck Lake to secure supplies which were there, and on his return was met by two hundred rebels, who endeavoured to surround the police. The rebels fired the first shot. The police then opened fire, and the engagement became general. Ten civilians and two policemen were killed. Four civilians and seven policemen were wounded."

This news was meagre enough, but it must be remembered that Fort Carlton is seventy miles north of Humboldt, the nearest telegraph station on the C. P. R., and that although a man with a team ought to do it easily in twenty-four hours, the news has to be telegraphed to Winnipeg and from that place east.

This was all the Government knew, but it was enough to cause them to resolve upon extreme measures.

As I have remarked, the different accounts of the battle of Duck Lake are contradictory in the extreme. Perhaps the best information is that given by a half-breed eye-witness. Hearing that the force under Crozier was en route for Duck Lake the mounted half-breeds started to reconnoitre. They met a force of police and citizens, in sleighs. The half-breeds scattered, and Major Crozier thought an effort was being made to surround him, and ordered his men to fire. The fight was short but hot. T. W. Jackson, a member of the Territorial Council, says that Gabriel Dumont, one of Riel's lieutenants, told him that Crozier was going to take supplies from Duck Lake. Dumont took mounted men, armed with Remingtons, and met Crozier's force a few miles from where the trail enters a coulee and bluffs. Both parties stopped, and the half-breeds were ordered to scatter in the bush. Crozier thought they were attempting to surround him and fired. The half-breeds lost four killed and two wounded. Crozier had thirteen men killed, who were left on the field.

Another eye-witness says that "the rebels were concealed in a house and in the woods, and were not discovered by the police until they were within fifty yards. During a parley an Indian attempted to wrest a rifle from a policeman, and was shot. This was the opening of the fight, which lasted forty minutes. The house where the rebels were concealed was not discovered until after the fight commenced. A cannon was immediately brought to bear, but unfortunately in loading the police put in a shell without powder, thus rendering the gun useless. The volunteers remained standing while the police fought lying down, hence the greater loss of the former."

Yet another eye-witness puts it thus:—"On the evening before the fight a meeting of the half-breeds was held to talk of the situation, it being well known that Crozier with his men intended to come to Duck Lake and fight, as the half-breeds had found out two days before that they intended meeting them. At this meeting it was decided to stand their ground and be on the defensive. The next day they came, and when the half-breeds saw Crozier and his men, they divided on each side of the road so that they could pass and follow their road in peace if they did not intend to do any fighting, but the commander thinking the half-breeds intended to surround him and his men, gave the order to the Mounted Police and Prince Albert volunteers to fire on the half-breeds, and one of the half-breeds was seen to fall from his horse. Crozier's fire having excited the half-breeds, they made a rush on the other party. The engagement was of short duration, but very violent, and the police and volunteers received the order from Crozier to retreat, taking with them the dead and wounded officers of the Mounted Police, but leaving on the field thirteen volunteers dead."

RUMOURS.

Naturally enough on such an occasion, the wildest rumours were soon afloat on every conceivable and inconceivable subject. Of these, the subject that of the Fenians was the most prolific, of the most contradictory and, at the same time, of the most absurd.

A Buffalo despatch confidently asserts that "the present rebellion is due to the active work of the old Irish republican army, headed by the Hon. C. Donohue, who held a captain's commission during the American civil war, and who was chief of staff, under Fenian General O'Neil. The American Fenians are determined that Canada shall not help the mother country either in the Sudan or Afghanistan, and, to prevent the deportation of Canadian troops to aid in smothering the mahdi, they have set up Riel in the north-west again and are providing him with money and munitions of war. The sudden call for troops for North-west service overjoys the Fenian leaders, who see that the eastern Provinces of Canada will be unable to help England, no matter how great the emergency, until Riel has been smashed. The Canadian authorities are aware that the Fenians here are brewing the trouble, and Detective Murray, who is well-known to the Fenians, has been here some time working on the case, but he has been befooled at every step since he reached the city."

"If the Fenians in the States," remarked one paper, "are not now supporting and counselling Riel, they are at least ready to take