

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH

Fuller Particulars Of the Engagement

WITH THE HALF-BREDS AT CLARK'S CROSSING.

A Short and Hot Engagement.

THE REBELS MAKE A HASTY RETREAT.

GEN. MIDDLETON'S COMMAND TO THE MEN.

Battleford Relieved but Waiting for Supplies.

[SPECIAL TO THE NOR-WESTER.]

FISH CREEK, April 29th.—We had a desperate fight with the rebels on the 24th. General Middleton was riding to the front with Bouton's scouts. When approaching two small bluffs about thirty rebel scouts opened fire, killing some horses and wounding several of the men. Between the bluffs were five hundred yards apart level prairie extend; there is also a deep ravine running back in places about a mile. On west side there stands two log houses and straw stacks. After firing a volley from the bluffs the scouts got under cover. The general ordered up the advance guard of the 90th under Capt. Clark. When the 90th were coming up some were standing down at this moment. The general received a bullet through his hat and shouted to the men who were standing down 'Stand, men; if I had been stooping down my brains would have been knocked out! Two guns of A Battery under Capt. Peters then came up at a gallop after firing a couple of shots at the rebels. Latcher retired to the ravine. While using driven across Sergt. Stewart of Bouton Scouts shot and killed an Indian who had already shot four horses. The remainder of the 90th were then brought up. One company of the Infantry School being on the extreme right had a couple of hot contests for possession of a knoll about five hundred yards in front of the ravine. While this was going on at the right 'A' battery, garrison division, who were sporting their guns, and a company of the 90th under Capt. Forrest made a dash across the opening for the purpose of gaining the top of the ravine. Remainder of forces were GREATLY WORKED UP.

and kept closing on the ravine. In the meantime the artillery drove the rebels out of a number of houses and set straw stacks on fire. When the Grenadiers arrived they were thrown out in skirmishing orders so as to defend the ravine and to relieve some of the troops who had been on duty all day. About six rebels retreated on horse back at five o'clock. General Strange drew his troops back. The killed and wounded are:

90TH BATTALION. Killed—Wheeler, Ennis, Ferguson, Hutchinson. Wounded—Matthews, Kemp, Laws, Jarvis, Stovell, Johnson, Sansford, Teightbridge, Code, Chambers, Caniff, Powell, Capt. Clark, Hishop, Blackwood.

'A' BATTERY. Killed—Domerelli, Cook. Wounded—Morrison, Ainsworth, Taylor, Asselin, Irvine, Woodman, Langane, Oucippe, Turner, Wilson, Harrison.

INFANTRY SCHOOL. Killed—Watson. Wounded—Cummings, Jones, Harris, Jones, McDonald, Dunne.

BOUTON SCOUTS. Wounded—Gardner, Longford, Perrin, King, Baber, Bruce, Stewart, Captain Wine, A.D.C., had two horses shot under him and was then wounded himself. The man who shot him was in Small's Rifles Pitt. He wore a buckskin suit and was a splendid marksman. Captain Donald was also wounded. The shooting of the rebels was very deadly, and seldom missed mark.

BATTLEFORD, April 29th.—Col. Otter with his division, also Welchman and police have arrived.

April 27th.—We are still here waiting for supplies. Bruce of Bouton Scouts, died yesterday. It is expected the rebels will make another stand at Clark's Crossing.

THE NOR-WESTER.

CALGARY, THURSDAY, April 30, 1885.

DR. LINDSAY, who has been on a visit to the New Orleans Exposition, returned last Thursday.

A special train, with four passenger cars, arrived last Thursday morning, with men to work on the C.P.R. road.

MR. P. ZYNDOR, M.P., from Regina, is in town. He is here supervising the immigration buildings which are under way of completion.

OUR photographer, Mr. G. A. Hanes, is doing a good business in that line, owing to the volunteers being stationed here for the last three weeks.

The balance of the 65th battalion left here for the north last Thursday morning. They were accompanied out of town by the band of the Winnipeg Light Infantry.

EARLY on Wednesday morning a special train containing the 9th battalion from

Quebec. They number some 250, and are under command of Col. Amyot, M.P.

The Mountain Rangers were out on parade last Sunday. They are well mounted and present a fine appearance. There is no doubt but the boys will do some good work if there is any to do.

We have received a copy of the pamphlet published by Messrs. Burns and Elliott. It contains some valuable information regarding our town, and will no doubt receive a hearty recognition by the residents of Calgary and vicinity.

The Public School opened on Thursday last under the new regime, the old popular teacher having been engaged by the trustees. Already Mr. Douglass has a full school, and says there is plenty of work for an assistant teacher. This is encouraging for both town and teacher.

The members of the Alberta Lodge, I.O.O.F., marched in a body to the Methodist Church Sunday morning, where the anniversary services were held. The Rev. J. Dyke occupied the pulpit and delivered a very appropriate sermon, taking for his subject, the covenant between David and Jonathan.

Panic at Edmonton.

Edmonton Bulletin, April 30.

That an unmistakable panic existed in Edmonton town and district on Saturday afternoon and Sunday last must be universally admitted as well as the fact now apparent that it was groundless. For several days before various parties had been quietly preparing for trouble, some by removing their families to Edmonton, St. Albert or Fort Saskatchewan, others by getting guns and ammunition ready, and still others by caching their goods. These were impelled by a sense of impending danger to make such preparations as were possible to reduce it to the lowest point. But the movement on Saturday and Sunday were more in the nature of a stampede from than a preparation for danger. The loss that has resulted from the panic has already been very great. Some people deserted their houses, turning their stock loose, or driving it before them to the place of refuge. Had the weather remained fine this would not have mattered much, but the stormy weather which has occurred since will almost certainly occasion considerable loss, besides a very large amount of unnecessary inconvenience.

That a panic did occur was nothing strange under the circumstances. Out of this settlement is just now from the outside world, and the last news we received being of such an unfavorable character, we are left to all sorts of imaginations as to what is going on. Until the rising of the Indians at Battleford occurred, and, nearer home, the peaceful Saddle Lake Indians, 120 miles to the east, turned loose, it was felt that Edmonton would be the next circus ground. When it was further known that the Bears' Hill band, sixty miles to the south, were talking 'gaps, matters got more interesting, and when Capt. Griesbach's Beaver Lake despatch came in on Saturday to the effect that the Whitefish Lake, Lac la Biche and Egg Lake bands were on the way to join the Bears' Hill outfit, for the purpose of rising, and that the Blackfoot had turned out and torn up the railway track, panic naturally ensued. When, however, reliable news was brought on Sunday that as yet Whitefish Lake and Lac la Biche were reasonably quiet the panic subsided.

The great danger and loss in all such cases as that in which we now are, arises from panic, and that is what should be most carefully guarded against by those in authority. In our case the danger is universally believed to be real, so great and so close at hand, that special care is needed. While on one hand every possible preparation should be carried on with the utmost vigor, so that people would have their minds made up as to their course in case of danger pressing upon them, every means should be taken by the employment of skilled scouts and couriers to keep the public, or at least the authorities, posted thoroughly as to the amount of danger and the direction in which it may be looked for, as well as when and what amount of assistance may be expected. Situated as we are, with reserves on all sides of us, any of which may be used as gathering places for numerous bands, we cannot tell from which direction we are to be struck, and the necessity for a thoroughly efficient scout, as distinct from patrol, service is the greater. It is fifteen days since we last heard from Battleford, and the same length of time since we heard directly from Saddle Lake, while ten days have elapsed since our messenger left for Calgary and we have had no direct news from that point. All this is most unsatisfactory and leaves us in a position that a panic may be excited at any moment without sufficient reason. Any amount of men can be hired to carry messages or bring news from or to any part of the Northwest territories. We have a police officer, who, whether entitled to or not, has both verbally and in writing assumed supreme command of and responsibility for matters here. It may easily be beyond his power to protect the settlement from actual attack, but it is not beyond it to protect from surprise or panic, and to this much protection we are surely entitled at government expense.

If we were forewarned we would be forearmed—i.e. at it, we could make preparations adequate to meet the danger expected. But when we are in the dark as to the amount of danger, although only too well aware of its existence, we may be preparing for one description of attack when we need to be prepared for another. If the danger is only from the bands in the immediate vicinity the military forces should be scattered through the country to prevent isolated robbery, burning or murder, but if it is likely, as it is certainly possible, that the whole of the hostile Indians in the Saskatchewan country will come or be driven here, and will unite with the bands in this vicinity, it will be necessary to unite all

forces for the common defence. Unless this

is done, and done effectively, wholesale pillage or, perhaps, massacre will result. There is just one way—by sending out scouts—to find out the probabilities in this matter, and that way should be taken without further loss of time.

REBELLION ITEMS.

The following appears in the Toronto News:

TOUCHWOOD HILLS CAMP. April 11: To-morrow we go to join Gen. Middleton 40 miles from here, and will then proceed directly to the rebel camp to knock the tar out of them. The boys are ready every time, and you may expect to hear of some good work if we get engaged. We are just getting into the way of grubbing and are beginning to enjoy ourselves. All that we want now is a few half-breeds to loom up and we will be happy. We ain't thinking of dying yet.

J. H. Fox, No. 4 Company, Royal Grenadiers.

The minister of militia has issued orders appointing Major Hughes to the command of the 65th battalion, the department having been officially notified to-day that Col. Ouimet, M.P., who went up in command, had left the corps and was now on his way home to Montreal. The affair is causing considerable excitement, as no reason is assigned for Ouimet's action, and according to the articles of war he must be summarily dealt with if he has deserted his post.

THE INTERVIEW. 'What about your fool, there is some complaint about the supplies?'

'I've not a word to say against the supply of food as far as we were concerned, up to a certain point. It was not exactly what you would have at home at times, but it was the best that could be got, and officers and men shared alike. Before we got to the gaps we had occasional hot meals, and when we got there at the end of the first one we had a meal in a lumber camp. The fare there was rough, but it was the best the section afforded, and much better than the section ordinarily had; so what more could any man want.'

'So you had plenty all the way through?'

'No, we had not, and I'll tell you plainly why. Everything went all right until the infernal Frenchmen, the 65th from Montreal, 'walked right in the middle of the gaps and spoiled the whole arrangement.'

'How do you mean that they spoiled it?'

'Why, I mean that they ruined it. You don't know those men. They are the worst most malicious, reckless, disorganised gang I ever met in my life. They ruined right there in the gaps, kept those behind them for a day and a half in the snow without shelter and nearly starved those before because no provisions could go through. Oh! they're a fine crowd of soldiers, they are!'

'Did you see much of them?'

'All together too much. The rheumatism caught me while crossing the gaps and rising on the flat cars, and the doctor wanted to send me back, but with the assistance of Capt. Mason, I persuaded him to take me along until we reached McKellar's harbor. There is a C.P.R. hospital there, and they put me in that. I was willing to go further, but the cart twenty-three mile tramp I had done over the ice in my stocking foot as I could not get a boot, and consequently I did not get on. Dr. Armstrong, an old Toronto boy who graduated about four years ago in charge, and if you have a good word that you have never used put it in for Dr. Armstrong. All that man could do he did for the boys that laid off with him. He put a fly blister on mine, and I lay there until one morning about 4 o'clock I heard the bugles sound and knew that another regiment had arrived. I was a good deal better by this time and tumbled right out. Billy Beaumont was in that hospital with me, and I left him there. I walked down to the track, and found the 65th. Lord, what a crowd! There was no discipline, no spirit, no nothing, except drinking whisky and grumbling. 'We don't want to fight,' was the incessant cry. When they were not saying that they said, 'We want to go home.' The train was backing down towards us, and just as it arrived one of them said, 'Me won't fight,' and threw himself under the train. The barbecue stove in his scalp, and a wheel cut off one of his feet. We left him in the bed I had just left, and I don't know whether he died or got better. Finally we got aboard and got away.'

'How did the 65th behave after you got started?'

'They could not have behaved worse. Colonel, majors, captains, lieutenants, non-commissioned officers and men were all drunk together. There was nothing approaching to discipline. Private and officers grumbled each other and snubbed I over each other in their drunkenness together. It was simply disgraceful. When we were going up a sentry was always placed at each door to prevent whisky being handed in, and the men's side arms were always left in charge of this sentry. As far as I could see the 65th never thought of such a thing as a sentry, and all were their side arms and filled up with whisky. I saw one man snatch two sword bayonets out of the scabbards of the two men sitting alongside him and shove them into the breast of the man in front. Even then they never dreamed

of taking away the men's side-arms. They were also horribly filthy, and when I left them, I am telling you the solid facts, that I had to be disinfected so to speak.'

'How did they behave in Winnipeg?'

'Just as bad as they possibly could. They have spoiled that place for every white man that comes into it. They were quartered in the skating rink, a nice, large, warm place, with good bunks fitted up for them, splendid quarters, so filthy were they that they would not even go outside to relieve themselves, and left that skating rink in a condition not possible or fit to describe. They went about the town like roughts, and they stole everything they could lay their hands on. When some of them were invited into a private house by kind hearted people, who wished to do all they could for them, they stole the knives and forks and spoons and napkins and anything else they could get their hands on, and they wound up by going into the parlor and committing a nuisance. I honestly believe that if they had been left in Winnipeg much longer they would have been mobbed and killed.'

'They are in Calgary now?'

'Yes, and it is a good place for them. There are enough white men out there to kill them off if they don't act straight. The simple fact is that that regiment will not fight against Riel, and the government know it, and that is why they were not supplied with ammunition like the other troops. As a matter of fact it was not safe to give them ball cartridge. Now they are away at the Rocky Mountains, and the 9th Quebec are in Winnipeg, and there both regiments will stay because they can be controlled.'

INDIAN RANCHES. Canada has acquired a splendid territory, a country that ought to make her a great nation in the near future, and she has not given anything like honest value for it. It was an easy thing to fill up the country with officials to teach the Indians farming and to ration them (there are always plenty of people who are anxious to serve their country and who will be paid for it), but it is quite another thing to make the Indian learn farming and to feed him decently till he can become self-supporting. A little more outlay comparatively speaking would have supplied those tribes with bands of cattle and horses from which to breed, and there is not an Indian in the Northwest who would not turn stock-raiser. They have many mares in some of the reserves now, but their ponies do not improve, as they have only the little cayuse stallions to which they can breed. Let the agent in each agency keep one, two, or three active and well-bred stallions suitable to cross upon and improve the cayuse stock, and the Indians would gladly bring their mares to them. Let the agent point out to them the folly of working and riding their coats and fillies before they are properly matured, and they will soon see their breeds of horses becoming valuable. These bands which have not a supply of brood mares could be furnished with them at a very moderate cost, and in the same way they might be started in the business of cattle-raising. They would take an interest in such pursuits as these, and gradually getting into the economical and thrifty ways of the stock-raiser, the path would be opened for them to adapt themselves to a mode of life more in accord with the necessities of a settled country before any contraction of their ranges would become necessary in the interests of actual settlement, and when the proper time came they would doubtless be willing to sell land as reasonably as any other extensive holders. It is quite true that such a plan would involve an initial outlay of much larger than our annual expenditure for the sustenance of the Northwest tribes now is, but it would be a long step in the direction of rendering them self-supporting, and would be vastly cheaper and pleasanter than the task of quelling Indian uprisings. The present troubles may be quicky over, but for all that many valuable lives have been sacrificed, and the Government may rest assured that the red men of the Northwest will not quietly starve to death without making further trouble. Would it not be better to expend a liberal sum and grant them an extensive cattle range to render them self-supporting, than to either feed or fight them till they are exterminated?—Canadian Breeder.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

DISTANCE IN THE NORTH-WEST.

Mr. Casgrain—Before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to call the attention of the Minister of Militia to a report that creates some sensation; I mean what has been published in the newspapers as to the withdrawal or retirement, or what it may be called, as to Col. Ouimet's leaving his detachment and being in Winnipeg, and also as to the reason that is alleged to be given by him for not continuing his services. It is a very grave matter, indeed, and I think the rumor ought not to be left to go abroad to the public without some satisfactory explanation.

Mr. Carson—I heard of the rumor which the hon. gentleman refers to. All I know about the matter is that Col. Ouimet followed his command from Winnipeg to Calgary, that he returned from Calgary to Winnipeg again. I have no doubt, knowing Col. Ouimet as I know him, and knowing his intimate knowledge of military matters, that his going from Calgary to Winnipeg was on special duty or on leave, which he had a perfect right to do. He was for a short time in Winnipeg—about a day, I believe—and he returned back to Calgary, and he is now at the head of his battalion. That is all I know about it.

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