

his post, and through his influence and management the herd of cattle was saved from falling into the hands of the enemy. This was accomplished by removing the bands, with all the movable property that could be taken, to Sturgeon Lake, some twenty miles north of Prince Albert."

The yield in 1884 from the land planted on the reserves in the Carlton district was very much less than was anticipated. Consequently, the Department was obliged to furnish liberal supplies of food for the Indians. Fisheries, with competent overseers, were also established, with a view to reduce as much as possible the expenditure on food supplies. The agent reports as follows in respect to the feelings of the Indians before the half-breed insurrection broke out, and the connection of the three bands of One Arrow, Okemasis and Beardy, therewith:—

"Shortly after Riel's appearance in the country the Indians held a meeting at Duck Lake, which was attended by Big Bear and other Indians from the north. This meeting concluded by the Indians of this district declaring their loyalty, and nothing transpired to excite suspicion during the fall and winter. In February the half-breeds in the vicinity of Batoche held several meetings, in none of which the Indians took part, but remained on their reserves. The excitement then prevailing was entirely confined to the half-breeds. On visiting the various reserves the Indians appeared to be perfectly contented, and expressed themselves thankful for the liberal assistance extended to them throughout the winter.

"On the morning of the 18th March word was brought to me that some half-breeds were tampering with the Indians on One Arrow's reserve. I immediately proceeded to that point, passing through Duck Lake and Batoche *en route*. At both places I made the necessary enquiries, but failed to discover anything to lead to the supposition that an early resort to arms was expected. On arriving at the reserve, about four and one-half miles south of Batoche, I found, on questioning the Indians, that Gabriel Dumont had been on the reserve the previous evening and invited the band to attend a meeting the following day. I then drove to chief One Arrow's house, and explained to him, as strongly as I could, the importance of keeping his band on the reserve, and not listening to any stories that might be circulated throughout the camp by outsiders. This he appeared thoroughly to appreciate, and spoke in glowing terms of the loyalty of himself and his band. On returning to Batoche, and when within a short distance of that place, I was surrounded by an armed mob of about forty half-breeds, commanded by Riel, who gave orders to make me and my interpreter prisoners. This was done, and I remained a prisoner in the rebel camp until released by General Middleton's column on the 12th May.

"The bands of Beardy and Okemasis remained neutral for a few days, but were finally persuaded to join the rebels, through the influence of the half breeds,