

(Confidential.)

COPY OF OFFICIAL DIARY OF LIEUT.-COL. IRVINE.

1885.

Lieut.-Col. Irvine. 18th March, Wednesday.—The detachment of the North-West Mounted Police, consisting of the commissioner, three inspectors, seven sergeants, three corporals and 79 constables, with 66 horses, left the barracks at Regina en route for Fort Carlton shortly after 6 a. m., and proceeded to Pisapot's reserve, camping there for dinner. The morning was cool, with light breeze from the N.W. Roads very good but snow going fast; prairie generally bare of snow; only frozen snow on the trail. In afternoon proceeded down the Qu'Appelle Valley to Musquopeton's place, and camped there for the night. No water could be got for the horses at noon, as the Qu'Appelle River was frozen solid to the bottom.

Inspector W. Fraser.
" Sanders.
" Drayner.

19th March, Thursday.—Rveille at 3:30 a. m. Broke camp and left Musquopeton's place at 5:30 a. m. and went into Fort Qu'Appelle. Roads good, but country generally pretty bare of snow. Arrived at Fort Qu'Appelle at 9:45 a. m., and remained there for dinner. The commissioner got three more teams of horses and sleighs, also took one team and sleigh from the Qu'Appelle detachment. Started out again at 4 p. m., and travelled over good roads, nine miles, to O'Brien's, and camped for the night there.

20th March, Friday.—Rveille at 3:30 a. m. Broke camp and started at 5 a. m.; proceeded to Hoase's place, 26 miles over good roads; weather cold and cloudy in morning. After halting for dinner, proceeded to Touchwood and camped at the mail station, about a mile behind the Hudson Bay Company's post. Road still good. Had a slight fall of snow to-day.

21st March, Saturday.—Rveille at 3:30 a. m. Broke camp and started at 5:30 a. m.; morning cold and cloudy; roads good through the Touchwood Hills. Having got water for the horses, camped for dinner shortly before coming on to the Salt Plains. In the afternoon moved across the plains to the mail station, where we arrived at sunset and camped; weather bright and fine in the afternoon, with cold wind from the N.E. While in camp at Salt Plains, 21st March the commissioner received the following letter—the first notification of difficulties ahead.

" CARLTON, 19th March 1885.

" Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that the half-breeds seized the stores at South Branch to-day.

" Mr. Lush, Indian agent, Walters, merchant, two telegraph repairers and Mr. Mitchell, of Duck Lake, are prisoners.

" Beardie's Indians joined the rebels this afternoon; the wire is cut. The rebels are assembled on south side of river; prisoners are held in the Roman Catholic church, about a quarter of a mile up stream from crossing.

" All One Arrow's band of Crees joined the rebels this afternoon; many of Beardie's also joined them; all Beardie's will probably follow to-morrow; number of rebels assembled this afternoon estimated at from two to four hundred men; they will rapidly increase in numbers.

" My impression is, that many of the Indian bands will rise. The plan at present is to seize any troops coming into the country at the South Branch, then march on Carlton, then on Prince Albert. The instructor leads One Arrow's band; he is a half-breed.

" (Signed), L. N. F. CROZIER.

" COL. IRVINE, Commissioner."