

Battleford via Swift Current with seventy Mounted Police and one cannon.

Indeed, affairs in all directions now began to look threatening. The Indians surrounding Battleford suddenly went off, it was true, but merely to plunder the outlying and deserted farms. Nearly all the Saskatchewan Indians were ready for pillage and bloodshed. It was feared that Herchmer would have little chance to reach Battleford. The worst fears were also now entertained for Fort Pitt, as only twenty-five police and a few soldiers were stationed there, and nothing had been heard from them for several days. Communication, too, was cut off with Prince Albert. The mail route between Swift Current and Battleford could not be opened. Big Bear's band and the Fort Pitt Indians joined Riel. Montana half-breeds were also said to be taking part in the movement. Many settlers at Saskatoon and other places abandoned their homesteads, leaving everything to the Indians, who plundered and destroyed everything in their path. Settlers arriving at Fort Qu'Appelle, from the north, reported that their path at night was lit up at stretches with the burning barns and houses.

A courier reported Prince Albert entirely surrounded, and Col. Irvine and Major Crozier with the police, hemmed in by a vastly superior force. The Touchwood Indians were said to have been greatly excited, and it was feared that they would harass the troops on their progress north. Indeed rumours now spread rapidly. It was estimated that Riel had between fifteen hundred and two thousand men at his command. It is also firmly believed that he was receiving aid from the other side, as some men had been seen with him who are not half-breeds, Indians or settlers, but strangers, entirely unacquainted with the country. It was also actually rumoured that he had received a consignment of dynamite.

All such reports, however, we may for the present dismiss; for events sufficiently soon became serious enough in themselves to call for speedy action, without the aid of exciting rumours.

Our attention now must be directed to Frog Lake, to the north-west of Fort Pitt. It is a beautiful settlement, the lake itself being a small sheet of water, the largest of a chain of small lakes which empties into the Saskatchewan at Fort Pitt, some forty miles to the south-east. Frog Lake is 130 miles from Battleford. There is a good deal of small timber, sufficient to justify the erection of a sawmill.

Here was enacted what is now known as the massacre of Frog Lake. One report stated that on April 2nd the Indians at Frog Lake invited Indian Agent T. T. Quinn and others to a conference in their camp, and shot them as soon as they entered, and that those killed were Agent Quinn, Fathers Fafard and La Marchand, Instructor Delaney, Mr. and Mrs. Gowanlock, John Milescoff, Charles Gouin, and others, making eleven in all. Another, that the Indians entered Gowanlock's house, and without saying a word, deliberately shot him dead. Another Indian raised the rifle and aimed at W. C. Gilchrist, when Mrs. Gowanlock, rushing forward, pinioned his arms by clasping him around the body. He shook her off and fired, killing her instantly, and shot Gilchrist immediately after. Charles Gouin, another of the victims, was employed by the Indian Department as a carpenter. Quinn, the Indian Agent, was married to a Cree woman, who, it is presumed, was cognizant of the intended murder. Willis-craft was a plasterer. The body of Payne, the murdered farm instructor, was found on the floor of his house, being deluged with blood. Barney Tremont, the Belgian rancher, was found dead beside his wagon, one hand clasping a wrench, the other the wheel of the wagon. Two bullet holes ran through his head, and an arrow was found in his breast. The Rev. Father Fafard was born in Berthier, where his parents are believed to be now residing. His education was completed at L'Assomption College, whence he went about nine years ago to take part in the mission work of the North-west. He was well known, and has been described as possessing a singularly amiable disposition, and extraordinary facility in learning languages. He was attached to the Battleford mission, which is included in the diocese of Bishop Gaudet, of Prince Albert. His duties were the ordinary duties of a Catholic priest, in addition to which he probably undertook the tuition of the children of his flock, said to have consisted of whites, half-breeds and Indians.

The final and authentic news was that Mrs. Gowanlock was not killed, but carried off as a captive. The priests were beaten to death and their bodies then burned. The Indians were very bloodthirsty. They burned all the buildings at Frog Lake, and compelled all the people to attend church, where the victims and murderers met together. They shot ten white settlers after the service. The victim, Frank Smart, had, for one so young, been a very successful business man, being only 25 years of age. He opened a shop in Battleford in partnership with Mr. Marigold, and after that he was, for two years, manager of Alexander Macdonald's store. Later he had been manager for Mahaffy & Clinsley. He married, a year ago last June, Miss Donovan, of Scotland, and leaves one child, a boy. He was a bright, energetic fellow, full of life, and a great favourite. He was buried with military honours.

The news of this bloodshed produced a feeling of intense anxiety, which was manifested on every hand, many believing that the massacre at Frog Lake might be repeated at any moment at Saddle Lake, or Fort Pitt.

This uneasy feeling was not without grounds, and to Fort Pitt we must now turn. Fort Pitt is situated on the north bank of the North Saskatchewan, 98 miles north-west from Battleford, and 204 miles east from Edmonton by the

trail running along the north side of the river. It is situated on a low, rich flat, which lies from 12 to 15 feet above the river level, and which runs back about one-half a mile to where it meets the high, rolling country that stretches away on all sides in the rear of the post.

The Fort consists of several log buildings arranged in a hollow square, and was formerly enclosed by a stockade with bastions on the corners, but as this was removed some years ago, it now lies unprotected in the midst of some cultivated fields surrounded by common rail fences.

It has been for many years in charge of Factor William McKay. The Indians at the Fort Pitt agency at the end of December were as follows:—

Big Bear, with a band of 520, located nowhere in particular, but spending most of his time roaming about between Fort Pitt and Battleford.

See-kas-kootch, with a band of 176, located at Onion Lake.

Pay-moo-tay-a-soo, with a band of 28, located at Onion Lake.

Sweet Grass, with 18, at Onion Lake.

Thunder Companion, with 5, at Onion Lake.

Wee-mis-ti-coo-seah-wasis, with 113, at Frog Lake.

O-ne-pow-hay, with 73, at Frog Lake.

Pus-keah-ke-win, with 31, at Frog Lake.

Kee-hee-win, with 146, at Long Lake.

Chipewagan, with 120, at Cold Lake.

In all, there are in the agency about 1,200 Indians.

The first news of any disaster at this spot was received by a despatch to Clark's Crossing from Battleford, saying that messengers just returned to the latter place from Fort Pitt brought intelligence of its capture. This was on April 21st. Still no authentic news came. The fugitives had been out five days, and should have been at Battleford, from whence despatches, it was thought, ought to have been received. The trip from Pitt to Battleford should have been made in, at most, three days. It was thought that the Indians, finding very little provisions at the fort, set out after the boats and attacked them, either capturing the fugitives or forcing them to take shelter in the bush on the opposite bank. However, on April 22nd, five of the Mounted Police from Fort Pitt arrived all safe at Battleford and gave the following information:—

"In the attack by the Indians, one policeman was killed and one wounded. All the rest of the people took refuge in the camp of friendly Indians. Mrs. Gowanlock, previously said to have been killed, was alive and with Mrs. Delaney, prisoners of the Indians. The police, twenty-one in number, had a fight with about three hundred Indians of Big Bear's and Little Poplar's bands. One policeman, D. G. Cowan, son of Wm. Cowan, Ottawa, was killed, and one Lansley, of Halifax, wounded. Four Indians were killed. The Indians then ran away."

"McLean, of the Hudson Bay Company, with his family, left Fort Pitt the day before the battle. He had a parley with the Indians, who said they only wanted to kill the police. The police had all the arms and ammunition they require. The friendly Indians alluded to are the bands of See-kas-kootch (or See-kas-coots), Pay-moo-tay-a-soo (or Pem-me-tah-ah-soo), Sweet Grass, and Thunder Companion. See-kas-kootch is a Cree, and has a following of 170 souls. Pay-moo-tay-a-soo, as his name indicates, is quite as much a Blackfoot as a Cree, being like Poundmaker, cross-bred. His band numbers only 28. For sometime he was rusty about settling on a reserve, but through the persuasion of the late Thos. Quinn, who perished in the Frog Lake massacre, he was induced to go to work on a portion of See-kas-kootch's reserve, and he had since been well satisfied and well-behaved. Sweet Grass (who must not be confounded with Young Sweet Grass of the Battleford agency), was a Cree and his band numbers only 18. Thunder Companion is also a Cree, and he has a following of only 5. These Indians, numbering in all only 221 souls, were very poor and not any too well able to take care of themselves, to say nothing of protecting settlers from some of the most powerful bands of Crees to be found anywhere in the north. They were all located at Onion Lake, near Fort Pitt. There is a Church of England Mission School at Onion Lake, and the bands of Indians already mentioned have about 300 acres under cultivation. Last season their crops were very disappointing, however, and they did not save much that was edible in their harvest. Big Bear had been prowling about this agency all through winter, and, like the rest of the Crees brought up from Cypress Mountain, he had done little else than make trouble since he came north."

Still this was vague and satisfied no one. Indeed, Sir John Macdonald in the House on the night of the 22nd April was very cautious in his remarks on this subject. "I beg to state," he said, "that there is too much reason to believe that the rumours of the disaster of Fort Pitt is true, but they are not fully confirmed. They come from Battleford. They are vague in their nature, and therefore I do not think it will be well, from consideration of the feelings of those who are interested in the various people who are there, to speak more specifically, because all the reports are rumours as yet. But they have come from various sources, and therefore we must believe that a calamity has occurred, but to what extent I am not able to form an opinion. The moment I receive further information it will be laid before the House."

On the following day a despatch to the Hudson Bay authorities at Winnipeg from Battleford gave an account of the Fort Pitt disaster. It stated that Chief Factor McLean, with his

family, staff, and other whites, were prisoners. The following is given as the manner in which Chief Factor McLean came to be in the Indians' camp:—When Big Bear took up his position before Fort Pitt, Chief Factor McLean went into his camp to persuade him, if possible, to abandon the idea of attacking the fort. McLean, like other H. B. C. officers, had always been very influential with the Crees, and was evidently under the impression that, at least so far as he was concerned personally, he had nothing to fear. Instead of treating with him, however, Big Bear promptly made him his prisoner, and then compelled him to write a letter to his friends inside the Fort, advising the civilians to come to him in Big Bear's camp as prisoners, rather than be killed in the intended attack on the garrison. The police were also told to lay down their arms and leave, and on condition they did this, they were promised that they would not be molested. The civilians followed the advice contained in McLean's letter, but Inspector Dickens gallantly determined on fighting to the end against enormous odds, rather than secure the personal safety of himself and his men at the cost of a surrender or an ignominious retreat. Soon after the settlers had given themselves up as prisoners, Little Poplar and Big Bear, heading about 100 of their followers, made an assault on the garrison. The fight was fast and furious while it lasted, and for a time it looked as though Inspector Dickens and his gallant little band of twenty would be overpowered, but the coolness and pluck of the garrison ultimately triumphed, and the Indians were driven off with a loss of four killed on the spot and several others wounded. On the side of the police, Constable Cowan was killed and Constable Lonsby wounded. The victory of Inspector Dickens and his handful of men gave time for a comparatively safe and thoroughly honourable retreat. The settlers had, of their own accord, abandoned such protection as he was able to afford them, and nothing remained for him but to save his force and keep his surplus ammunition and supplies from falling into the hands of the Crees. Fitting up a York boat, they provisioned it for the journey, and then destroying everything in the shape of supplies, arms, and ammunition, which they could not take with them, they started down the river and, after a tedious journey, arrived at Battleford worn with anxious watching, exposure, and fatigue, but otherwise safe and well.

We must now return to the advance of our troops.

## THE ADVANCE.

A very few words will suffice to give the reader a clear conception of the plan of advance adopted by the Major-General commanding. He was left absolutely free to conduct the campaign as he thought best; and everything was subordinated to his wishes.

General Middleton then mapped out the following mode of operations:—

First, he himself with the 90th Battalion, 304 men; "C" Company, Toronto School of Infantry, 40 men; Royal Grenadiers, 250 men; "A" Battery, Quebec, 120 men; Winnipeg Field Battery, 52 men; Capt. French's column, 25 men; Col. Boulton's volunteers, 60 men, and were to march from Fort Qu'Appelle north-westwards, following the telegraph line past the Little Touchwood Hills, the Big Touchwood Hills, Alkali Plains, through Humboldt, to meet the South Saskatchewan at Clarke's Crossing. From thence we shall follow him in due course.

Second, Colonel Otter, with the Queen's Own Rifles, Ottawa Foot Guards, "C" Company Infantry School, and "B" Battery, were to proceed by rail to Swift Current, and then march as rapidly as possible due north across the South Saskatchewan, to the relief of Battleford.

Third, Major-General Strange, with the right wing of the 65th and Capt. Steele's Scouts, was to march from Calgary towards Edmonton; making forced marches through Lone Pines and Red River.

Fourth, the Hudson's Bay Company's steamer Northcote was to leave Medicine Hat for Swift Current, thence (as she was not required for the troops) to convey supplies, etc., etc., and to co-operate with General Middleton's column.

Perhaps it will be material to a better understanding of the advance, to go back a little in the history of the quelling of the rebellion and take a general glance at the movements of the troops. It will be remembered that the various battalions started at very different dates, and that, while some were well on the way to the Touchwood Hills, others were only on the point of starting from their headquarters. This will be brought more forcibly to our minds if we note the points at which the various corps have arrived on any one day. Let us take April the 8th—barely ten days from the first calling out of the troops. On this day, the troops at Qu'Appelle had advanced some 15 miles towards the Touchwood Hills; the advance guard of the Queen's Own and C Infantry Company, with Col. Otter in command, were on their way to Qu'Appelle from Winnipeg; the rear guard of the Queen's Own and the Grenadiers had just arrived at Winnipeg, and were about to leave for Qu'Appelle; the Ottawa sharpshooters also had caught the Grenadiers up en route and arrived at Winnipeg with them; the York Rangers and Simcoe Foresters, under command of Col. O'Brien, had marched the 20 miles across Lake Superior yesterday, and were on the cars at McKellar's Bay; Col. Williams' Midland battalion was on the first gap at Dog Lake, and pushing on with the least possible delay; the Body

Guards passed Mattawa early that morning, at the same time that the 7th Fusiliers from London, Ont., left Peterboro'; and the 7th Fusiliers had passed through Toronto on the preceding evening.

This is sufficient to give us a glimpse into some of the extreme difficulties attending the hurried transportation of troops from so many and widely separated localities to a common centre, with only such means of conveyance as the unfinished state of the Canada Pacific Railway permitted.

We cannot afford, however, to dwell longer upon this aspect of the campaign, and must proceed to the advance proper.

First we will consider General Middleton's advance:

When the General's troops reached Touchwood, the entire force was consolidated for the march across the salt plains. The order of the march was as follows:—Scouts thrown out about a mile each side of the road; a half company as advance guard; one field battery, the main body of troops, baggage, one gun, rear guard; and during a halt a square was formed surrounded by the waggons, which may be called a zariba.

General Middleton's plans now were to make with all possible speed for Prince Albert via Clark's Crossing and Batoche. Of the march to Clark's Crossing it is unnecessary to speak in detail. It was accomplished with the utmost despatch, the General hurrying forward with such troops as he had, and the rest doing their best to catch up to him. A regular sprint was put on for the last 36 miles. On April 17th, General Middleton, with one gun of "A" Battery under Capt. Drury, forty men of "C" Company, Major Smith and Lieutenant Scott, and twenty scouts under Capt. French, started for this point at 7 a.m. to secure the ferry. The infantry men were carried in waggons. The march was made in eight hours, a distance of 36 miles by trail. The weather was very cold with snow during the forenoon. The wind was blowing a gale. The horses had no hay for 24 hours previous to the march, and none till the arrival. The men fared but little better, as through some blunder no rations were sent with them. Taking everything into consideration it was a remarkable march. The remainder of the troops arrived before noon on the following day, and on the day after this (April 19), the 10th Royal Grenadiers having also entered the camp, Gen. Middleton issued the following to the men:—The whole force having now joined, the Major-General commanding wishes to address a few words to them previous to advancing. In the first place he wishes to thank them all, from the senior officers down, and all other officials, for the cheerfulness with which they have borne the really hard work and terrible weather, for the splendid marching they have made under numerous difficulties, and for their general good conduct. Regarding the enemy they are about to meet, nothing but the formation of the country can enable them to face a force like this; for we are better armed, better provisioned, and shoot as well, if not better, than they can. The only advantage they can possibly have over us is their natural instinct for taking cover, which they do admirably. In this respect we must watch them closely. The men must be civil and obedient to the order of their officers, and the Major-General commanding has no fears of the result. He need hardly add that no cruelty, none of the old idea of no quarter, can be thought of or tolerated, and the greatest care must be taken that no women or children, who may unfortunately chance to be in the vicinity, shall receive any injury. Officers and men are forbidden to enter houses or farms that may be passed, or take anything from them.

A short delay occurred at Clark's Crossing, but before long the whole force was set in motion towards Batoche. The order of march was as follows:—General Middleton advanced down the right bank with the following force:

90th Battalion (Winnipeg).....	304
"A" Battery.....	120
"C" Company School of Infantry....	40
Armed teamsters.....	66
Major Boulton's Scouts.....	60

Total..... 590

Colonel Montizambert and Lord Melgund marched down the left or west bank with the following:—

10th Royal Grenadiers.....	250
Winnipeg Field Battery.....	52
Capt. French's Scouts.....	40
Teamsters.....	80

Total..... 422

Communication was kept up between the divisions. By sending his forces down both sides of the Saskatchewan simultaneously, General Middleton made sure that no way should be left open for the rebels to escape him. He divided his forces about evenly, and doubtless considered that either division would be able to overcome Riel's forces should they meet them. On both sides of the Saskatchewan and for a few miles inland, there are numerous bluffs and groves of high timber, sufficient not only to obstruct the view, but to constitute a moderately effective cover for a fair sized force.

## WE now come to the BATTLE OF FISH CREEK.

About 9 o'clock on the morning of April 24th, while the General with his staff was riding well to the front, with Major Boulton's horse, who were acting as scouts, when about five miles