

General Laurie. Other corps were placed out along the Canada Pacific Railway line, ready to start at a moment's notice for north or south, as circumstances demanded. The following shows the name and strength of each column, and the strength and position of other corps along the railway:—

FIRST COLUMN.

"A" Battery, (Quebec).....	111
90th Battalion, (Winnipeg).....	323
Infantry School Corps, (part).....	46
Boulton's Scouts.....	80
10th Battalion Royal Grenadiers.....	267
Capt. Faench's Scouts.....	50
Winnipeg Field Battery, (part).....	33
Dennis' Surveyors' Scouts.....	60
Midland Battalion.....	108

SECOND COLUMN.

"B" Battery, (Kingston).....	114
Queen's Own.....	275
Infantry School, (part).....	45
Todd's Sharpshooters.....	51
Winnipeg Field Battery, (part).....	30
35th Battalion, (part).....	265

THIRD COLUMN.

65th Battalion.....	232
Winnipeg Provisional Battalion, (32nd).....	307
Strange's Rangers.....	50
Mounted Police.....	67

The rest of the force was stationed as follows:—

CLARKE'S CROSSING:

7th Battalion.....	232
Midland.....	168

TOUCHWOOD:

35th Battalion, (2nd Company).....	80
Quebec Cavalry School.....	40
Winnipeg Troop Cavalry.....	39

HUMBOLDT:

Governor-General's Body Guards.....	81
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FORT QU'APPELLE:

91st Battalion.....	396
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MOOSE JAW:

66th Battalion Halifax, (part).....	175
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MEDICINE HAT:

66th Battalion Halifax, (part).....	175
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GLEICHEN—CALGARY—FORT MCLEOD:

9th (Quebec) Battalion.....	232
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OLD WIVES' LAKE:

White's Scouts.....	51
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CYPRESS HILLS:

Stewart's Rangers.....	150
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Local companies were also organized and authorized for actual service at Regina, Battleford, Prince Albert, Calgary, Brandon, Emerson, Yorktown, and Birtle.

General Middleton left Fort Qu'Appelle with his men on April 6, with a march of 211 miles before him, to Clarke's Crossing. Col. Otter's column left Swift Current April 11, with a march of 203 miles, and arrived at Battleford on the 25th, having made the distance at the rate of about 30 miles a day. The men travelled in waggons. General Strange, with his column, left Calgary on April 20, and reached Edmonton on the 5th May, having made his march of 194 miles in 15 days.

ENGAGEMENTS.

DUCK LAKE, March 26.—The first encounter with half-breeds took place at Duck Lake, which is about 15 miles from Fort Carlton, and about 25 miles from Prince Albert. 100 Mounted Police, under Major Crozier, and the officers and men of the Prince Albert local company took part. Eleven loyalists were killed. The police retreated to Carlton, which they burnt, and then went on to Prince Albert.

FISH CREEK, April 25.—This was the first engagement between the first flying column, commanded by General Middleton, and the rebels. Our scouts were fired at by Indians and half-breeds and waited for the column, which arrived. The firing lasted for several hours. Volunteers killed, 10; wounded, 48.

CUT KNIFE HILLS, May 3.—Col. Otter, with 300 men, marched out of Battleford for 35 miles and fought Pound-Maker with 600 braves for several hours, inflicting heavy loss. Otter retreated in good order, having 4 killed and 12 wounded. The force during thirty hours marched seventy miles and fought several hours with the Indians.

BATOCHES, May 9 to 11.—This engagement was the second one between the first flying column under General Middleton and the half-breeds and Indians led by Gabriel Dumont, and was the most serious one since the beginning of the campaign, as Batoche's was considered, and was in fact the stronghold of the rebels. On the 9th we had 1 killed and 7 wounded; on the 11th we had 9 killed and 30 wounded. The following telegram from General Middleton relates briefly the facts.

"We had an engagement with the enemy on Monday. I received a message from Riel saying: 'If you massacre

our women and children, we will massacre our prisoners.'" I answered, "put your women in a safe place, point it out, and we will not fire at it." I then pushed on our advance guard, and when I saw a chance, ordered a general advance. Our men responded nobly and were splendidly led by their officers.

"Col. Stranbenzie drove the enemy out of their rifle pits at the point of the bayonet, and afterwards forced his way across the plain and seized the houses, of which we are now masters.

"Our men bivouacked on Monday night on the field of battle. In the heat of the action Riel sent another letter, stating that if the General did not retreat or grant an interview, the prisoners would be killed. The letter came too late, the advance being already ordered. The prisoners were rescued and are safe in camp. The enemy had not time to kill them. Our loss is five killed and fifteen wounded. The enemy sustained great loss."

MAY 30.—Strange's reconnaissance in force with Big Bear. Strange had 300 men, and found Big Bear with 500 braves strongly entrenched in a commanding position twelve miles north-east of Fort Pitt, and four miles back from the river on the north side. In the reconnaissance three volunteers were wounded.

JUNE 3.—Steele's Scouts had a brush with Big Bear at Onion Lake. Three scouts wounded.

THE COMMISSARIAT.

"An army crawls on its belly," is the military adage employed to show the intimate relations between military movements and commissariat supplies. Canada suddenly sprung into a war 2,000 miles away from the chief centres of population, found herself without even the barest skeleton of either an hospital branch or a commissariat branch, or a transport service. Food for 5,000 troops had to be provided. The attendant army of teamsters, foragers, surgeons, and others who wait upon the troops had also to be supplied. There was no Government depot of food supply. There was not even a round of hard tack or a ship's biscuit in store. The season was the worst possible time of the year, for winter had not disappeared nor spring set in. The snow was too soft to bear heavy teams. The grass was not long enough for the use of horses and cattle. There was no shelter along the wide stretches of prairie. When the Minister of Militia came to confront this particular phrase, he must for a while have felt that the difficulty was insurmountable, that it was simply impossible to undertake to gather together food supplies, waggons, horses, teamsters to send them off to the front to keep the fighting army well-fed. What the work is may be seen from the fact that on May 28 last, there left Calgary for Edmonton a convoy three miles long, consisting of 178 ox and