

greater. But the boldness of the step seems to have been its success, and once the troops from the East were in the country Riel's chances of making headway were greatly diminished. It may be that he calculated on the impossibility of troops coming from the East so quickly or perhaps the outbreak began before he had intended. This latter may have been the case, for the Indians in the United States seldom took the war-path in their many raids on the white settlements until there was sufficient grass on the prairie for their ponies' subsistence. The Indian in winter is a comparatively harmless enemy, but in spring and summer, mounted on his tireless pony, with no commissariat or supply train to impede him, he becomes active and dangerous and hard to be dealt with.

The writer, while on his return from the North-West towards the close of the Rebellion, had an opportunity of learning the opinion held by some

officers of the United States Army on the Rebellion. These gentlemen were stationed near the Canadian frontier, some having had years of experience in fighting the Indian within their own borders, and they naturally took an interest in what was going on in our country. To them the signs indicated a serious outbreak and the distance from the sources of relief and assistance, with the other difficulties in the way, together with the extent and character of the country, all pointed to a long and arduous campaign, and more especially when it was learned that the troops to be employed in the suppression of the Rebellion were the Volunteer Militia alone. That the affair was so promptly put down, and with such comparatively small loss of life was, to them, a matter of great surprise, and a striking proof of the energy of the Canadian Government and of the skill and soldierly qualities of the troops engaged in the struggle.