

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

THE BATTLE OF FISH CREEK.

The first brush that General Middleton's troops had with the rebels took place on April the 24th inst., and was fought with Riel's advance forces by half of the General's command. It will be remembered that on starting out from Clark's Crossing to find the enemy, the command was divided into about equal numbers.

General Middleton was advancing 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 was marching 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

General Middleton had on his staff Lt.-Col. Houghton, Deputy Adjutant-General of Military District No. 10, and his two aides-de-camp, Captains Wise and Doucet. The ravine where the rebels made their stand is in the shape of the letter V, Fish Creek running west along the bottom, and the principal rifle pits being at the junction of the arms. The General, with his staff, was riding well to the front, as was his habit, with Major Boulton's horse, who were acting as scouts. When about five miles from McIntosh, where they had camped the night before, and on approaching the small bluffs covered with timber, about twenty or thirty of the enemy's scouts opened fire, killing several of the scouts' horses and wounding some of the men. On the west side, about the centre, stood two log houses and straw stacks. After firing a volley from two bluffs the scouts got under cover, when the General turned around to Capt. Wise, his A.D.C., and told him to bring up the advance guard of the 90th, under Capt. F. I. Clarke. While the troops were coming up the General received a bullet through his hat. Two guns of "A" Battery approached at a gallop under command of Capt. Peters, the guns being supported by the garrison division (on foot) under Capt. Peters and Lieut. Rivers. After a couple of shrapnels had been fired at them, the half-breeds retired into the ravine. While being driven across, Sergeant Stewart, of Major Boulton's Horse, killed an Indian who had already shot four horses. The remainder of the 90th were then sent up, Major Buchan commanding the right half-battalion, and Major Boswell the left half. "C" Company Toronto Infantry School, being on the extreme right, had two or three hot scrimmages for possession of a knoll about five hundred yards up the ravine. Being ordered to retire from it, it was taken by the rebels, but the infantry again drove them out. While this was going on at the right, the garrison division of "A" Battery, who were supporting the guns, and a company of the 90th, under Capt. Forrest, made a dash across the opening and gained the top of the ravine. The remainder of the forces were gradually worked up and kept closing on the enemy. In the meantime the guns were being moved from point to point, so as to obtain the most advantageous position for shelling the rebels in the ravine. They drove the enemy out of one of the two log-houses they occupied, and bowled over and set on fire three adjacent stacks of straw. The shrapnel was too much for them, and they began to bolt towards the other side of the ravine, where the left wing was peppering them. This move was the first symptom of weakness they had exhibited, and General Middleton at once took advantage of it and ordered the whole force to close in upon them, his object apparently being to surround them. The rebel commander, however, was not to be caught in that way. Instead of bunching all his force on the left, away from the fire of the artillery, he sent only a portion of it there to keep our men busy while the rest tailed off to the north, retiring slowly as our two wings closed on them. Dumont was evidently on the lookout for the appearance of Col. Montizambert's force from the other side of the river, and in adopting the movement just described, he completely disposed of Gen. Middleton's chances of cutting him off. A scout from the General called across the river to Col. Montizambert that the General wanted the infantry to cross and come to his support at once. No. 2 Company of the Royal Grenadiers, under Capt. Mason

and Lieuts. Irving and Hay, then crossed on the scow. Lord Melgund and Capt. Young crossed with them, and after about three-quarters of a mile march from the river bank they came up with the right who were engaged with the enemy, who appeared to be under cover in a deep ravine. When this company of the 10th arrived they were sent over on the right flank and thrown out in skirmishing order so as to entlade the ravine and to relieve some of the troops who had been in action all day. About 60 of the rebels were seen to retreat on horseback, the remainder in the ravine being unable to do so owing to their horses being captured or shot. Infantry could not, of course, follow mounted men, and Boulton's scouts were not numerous enough to attempt a pursuit. The whole force was, therefore, ordered to halt, and at 3.30 p.m. it marched back a little to the south of the ravine where the fight began, and close to the river, where dinner was prepared, and the men repaired damages after their hard day's work. The Winnipeg Field Battery arrived from across the river, and, with the Grenadiers, gave the best they had to their gallant comrades of the 90th, "A" and "C." Camp was pitched here for the night. Just below the camp a rough field hospital was formed, in charge of Dr. Orton, M.P., and others, who was busy with the wounded. Nurses were drafted and everything made comfortable for the poor fellows. Rain had fallen from time to time during the day, and about 8 p.m. a heavy storm of rain, hail, and lightning, with terrific thunder, passed over the camp. Double guards were put on, and pickets and videttes posted everywhere, the General taking the utmost care to protect the troops in case the rebels returned. Nothing was seen or heard of them, however, except when a small mounted party of them approached the outer pickets and cheered. A number of cattle which Dumont had with him, and which had been stampeded during the fight, strayed into camp during the night, and were promptly corralled by the men.

The following is a list of the casualties, which, it will be seen, are heavy enough:—

90TH BATTALION.

A Co.—Private Ferguson, killed, shot in the heart; Private Hutchinson, killed, shot in the heart; Private W. W. Mathews, left arm broken; Corp. Theker, shot in arm and hand; Private C. Kemp, shot in the groin. B Co.—Private Wheeler, killed, shot in the head; Private Swan, slight wound in arm; Private M. O. R. Jarvis, two wounds in arm; Private Stovel, wound in shoulder; Private Johnson, slightly wounded. C Co.—Lieut. Swinford, severely wounded in head, feared mortally; Corp. Lethbridge, severely wounded in breast; Corp. Code, wounded in the leg; Private Chambers, slightly in the neck; Private W. H. Canniff, slightly in the arm. D Co.—Private Ennis, killed; Corp. Bowdell, slightly wounded. E Co.—No casualties. F Co.—Capt. Clarke, very severely wounded in back while moving from one bluff to another, still alive; Private D. Hislop, arm fractured; Private A. Blackwood, slight wound in thigh.

"A" BATTERY.

Driver Harrison, killed; Gunner Demanolly, killed; Gunner Cook, killed; Gunner Ainsworth, shot in body, fatally; Sergt.-Major Mawhinney, right arm broken; Bombardier Taylor, wounded in back while loading; Gunner Morrison, badly wounded; Gunner Woodman, badly wounded; Gunner McGrath, badly wounded; Gunner Asselin, badly wounded; Gunner Imrie, wounded in thigh; Gunner Ouillet, wounded in shoulder; Driver Turner, wounded in cheek; Driver Wilson, right arm broken.

INFANTRY SCHOOL.

Private Watson, mortally wounded, and since dead; Col.-Sergt. Cummings, flesh wound in the leg; Private R. Jones, arm fractured; Private H. Jones, shot through the jaw; Private Harris, arm fractured; Private E. McDonald, flesh wound in arm; Private R. H. Dunn, wounded in arm and hand, shot twice.

BOULTON'S HORSE.

Capt. Gardner, two slight wounds; Trooper James Langford, two slight wounds; Trooper Perrine, arm broken; Trooper King, two wounds in leg; Trooper D'Arcy Baker, very serious wound, since dead; Trooper Bruce, very serious wound in lung; Sergt. Stewart, slight wound in ear and hand. Capt. Wise, A.D.C., had two horses shot under him, and received a slight ankle wound. The man who shot him was in a small rifle pit, and wore a slouch hat with buckskin band, and was a good marksman. About 1.30 Capt. Doucet, A.D.C., received a flesh wound in the arm below the elbow. Major Buchan had a horse shot under him. Major Boswell had a bullet hit the heel of his boot. Major Boulton, while standing by his horse, had it riddled by buckshot, and another was shot under him.

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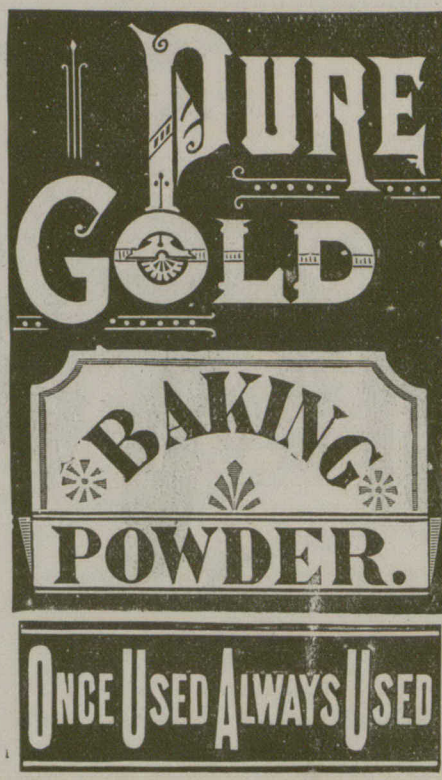
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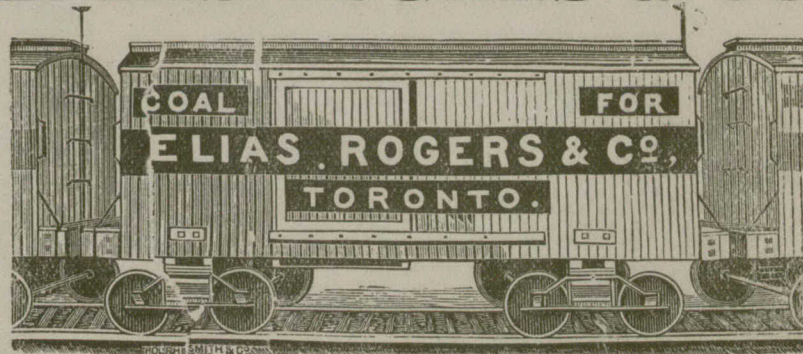
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