

# WINNIPEG WAR SKETCHES.

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OTTER'S FIGHT WITH POUNDMAKER AT CUT-KNIFE CREEK,

SATURDAY, 2ND MAY, 1885.

BATTLEFORD, May 5.—Col. Otter, with 320 troops, started to Poundmaker's reserve Friday afternoon. He drove all night, and at 5.15 on Saturday morning began a seven hour engagement with the Indians. Eight of our men were killed, and thirteen wounded. The attack was begun by the Indians suddenly, and it looked as if a trap had been set for us, into which we ran. The enemy was very strong, their numbers being estimated at six hundred, and they fought fiercely from cover, while we were comparatively open to their fire. They were fighting from the brow of a hill over a coulee. Five minutes after the first shot was fired we appeared to be completely surrounded. Fifty men were sent back to clear the rear. We had just passed through a deep gully thickly wooded, and a swift stream running on one side. The men sent back

MADE A DASH

and accomplished their object, thus lessening the danger of the situation. The fighting, which was all skirmishing, was over a large and uneven stretch of country, and our men were working at great disadvantage, but they stuck to it like heroes, and with bullets whistling in on them from almost every direction never flinched for an instant. Every corps continued steadily on the aggressive, and by 10 o'clock the enemy was almost silenced. They resumed again shortly, and the fighting was again heavy. The artillery, with two seven-pounders and the Gatling gun, did good work repeatedly by forcing the enemy from their cover, and at 11 o'clock the enemy was again almost completely silenced. Col. Otter had already given orders to withdraw from a position of such disadvantage. The Indians, observing this, endeavored to cut off the retreat of the men. Our troops

FOUGHT THEIR WAY OUT

inch by inch, the front always to the enemy. No praise is sufficient to describe the bravery of our officers and men. Every one showed himself a hero. Col. Otter, with his staff, was in every part of the field, and his orders were cool and decided as in a sham battle. The men were badly used up before the withdrawal began.

OUR FORCE

was comprised of seventy-five mounted police and scouts, "B" Battery, Ottawa Guards, "C" Company, Infantry School, the Queen's Own Rifles, and Battleford Rifles. It is thought from thirty to sixty of the enemy were killed. The column returned to Battleford the same night. The wounded are all doing well.

Following is the revised list of killed and wounded:

KILLED.

BATTLEFORD RIFLES.

PRIVATE ARTHUR DODDS.

GOVERNOR'S FOOT GUARDS.

PRIVATE JOHN ROGERS.

PRIVATE OSGOOD.

INFANTRY SCHOOL CORPS.

HUGLER FAWKES.

NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE.

CORPORAL LOWEY.

CORPORAL R. B. SLEIGH.

TRUMPETER "BUCK" BURKE.

TEAMSTER WINDING Regina.

WOUNDED.

BATTLEFORD RIFLES.

HUGLER GILBERT, shot in the neck.

B BATTERY.

LIEUT. PELLETIER, thigh.

SERGEANT GAFFNEY, arm.

CORPORAL MORTON, groin.

PRIVATE REYNOLDS, arm.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S FOOT GUARDS.

SERGEANT WINTERS, in the face.

PRIVATE M'QUILKINS, in the left side.

INFANTRY SCHOOL CORPS.

SERGEANT-MAJOR SPACKEN, flesh wound in the arm.

NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE.

SERGEANT WARD, in the shoulder.

QUEEN'S OWN.

COLOR-SERGEANT COOPER, in the hip.

PRIVATE LLOYD, in the shoulder.

C. VARY, in the shoulder.

GEORGE WATTS, in the thigh.

THE OBJECT OF THE FIGHT.

Colonel Otter's object in setting out with a flying column was simply to strike Poundmaker a blow, and then to return. This was done with some success. Fifty teepees were destroyed by our shell and the woods and prairie having been fired as we moved off, Poundmaker's camp was literally burnt. We learned on Sunday that he had moved on a short distance further west and that he now occupies a very strong position in a knot of bluffs covered with scrub. On the north end of the reserve there was a lot of houses. These were either destroyed or badly shattered. At Eye Hill Creek, at the south of the reserve, Poundmaker had placed ten mounted Indians, who were evidently looking out for a force coming in that way, as they took no part in the fight, but kept galloping up and down in an excited manner. No squaws or papooses were killed so far as we know. The Indians had three or four hundred head of cattle and a large number of horses. Some of these were killed by our artillery fire. Large herds of cattle lay in the ravines south. All these had no doubt been stolen from settlers. According to all accounts, the Indians have swept all that part of the country clean, plundering it, and then firing the empty homesteads. There are some half-breeds among the Indians. One of them, wearing a gray slouch hat, appeared to be directing on our left. Many of the Queen's Own had close calls, the buckshot at times lying like hail, but fortunately it was nearly always short. The Indians had a much larger force than we supposed them to have when we started.

FORT PITT.

EVACUATED, APRIL 15TH, 1885.

Inspector Dickens, who is a son of the great novelist, was in command at Fort Pitt. He succeeded in escaping with the mounted policemen down the river to Battleford, and related the exciting events that occurred prior to the evacuation of the old wooden fortress. On Wednesday, April 15th, Big Bear and his followers arrived from Frog Lake and pitched their teepees in the vicinity of the fort. A council was held at which its capture was discussed, when a division arose as to whether or not it should be attempted. While these proceedings were going on, the war party fired upon the two policemen, Loasly and Cowan, and the half-breed Quinn, who were returning from a scouting expedition. The garrison rallied to the rescue of their comrades and poured in volley after volley into the Indians, killing four and wounding twenty or thirty. Cowan was shot down, and under the very eyes of his comrades was st. yped and mutilated. The fate of Quinn, whose horse shied and made off in an opposite direction, is unknown.

Meantime Mr. McLean, factor of the Hudson Bay Company, went to the camp to have a talk with the chiefs, who expressed their friendliness to the officials of the Hudson Bay Company. The Indians avowed their hostility to the mounted police, and declared that they were going

TO EXTERMINATE EVERY WHITE MAN

but the employees of the Hudson Bay Company. Mr. McLean was not allowed to return, but was assured that he would be well treated. His life, however, would be forfeited if his people would not immediately join him. Under such circumstances, Mr. McLean had no other alternative than to submit. A letter, setting forth the situation, was addressed to his employees in the fort. The Company's people and civilians at once surrendered. A demand was then made for the police to give up their arms and be dealt with as