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The Weekly Messenger.

RIEL ROUTED AND CAUGHT.

Up till Tuesday, the 12th of this month, the rebellion in the North-West seemed to grow more and more serious. Gen. Middleton had won a victory which seemed to be so dearly bought that it was accounted a defeat by many. Newspapers viewing the battle at Fish Creek as a victory for the rebels fell into Riel's hands and greatly encouraged his followers. Col. Otter, too, had attacked Poundmaker, and if not defeated did not get much the better of the enemy. Before Col. Otter's attack on Poundmaker, the latter had made definite plans for an attack on Battleford. He had communicated with Riel and advised him to retire on Battleford if defeated and they would join forces. Even after Poundmaker had been attacked he seems to have sent messengers to Riel still hoping to make a stand against the enemy. The plans of both Indians and half-breeds, however, were put to naught by the events which occurred on Tuesday of last week. On Friday the 10th inst., the rebels at Batoche's kept up a brisk fire from their rifle pits and greatly annoyed the volunteers. The firing increased when the advanced skirmishers were called in, as this was thought by the enemy to mean a general retreat. During the fire one volunteer was killed and several wounded. All Saturday an intermittent firing was kept up, and through the greater part of Sunday, the houses in the valley of the Saskatchewan river near Batoche's were shelled. Many of them were destroyed and the rebels fled from them in consternation to the groves of spruce and poplar trees and into a ravine. Here a hot fire was poured in upon them at long range by the volunteers. The 90th Battalion of Winnipeg took a very active part in the fight, wishing to avenge themselves for the death of their comrades at Fish Creek. On Monday morning the fighting was renewed. Gen. Middleton contented himself however with shelling the rebel's position and using the infantry where they would be under cover from the enemy's fire.

The death stroke to the half-breeds' rebellion was given on Tuesday the 12th when after a

SHORT BUT DESPERATE FIGHT

the rebels were completely routed. On the underneath map the scenes of the battles at Batoche's Crossing and Duck Lake are marked with crossed swords.

To understand the mode of Gen. Middleton's attack it will be necessary to give some idea of the position which the rebels held. On the eastern side of the Saskatchewan lies the settlement of St. Laurent, marked on the map. North of this is a deep ravine and north of the ravine lies Batoche's village. The rebels had dug rifle pits on the south side of the ravine and it was here that they awaited Gen. Middleton's attack. After the General had captured St. Laurent, which has about a hundred houses scattered along the banks of the river, he advanced on the rifle pits, and as we have seen kept up a fire throughout Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and

Monday, not wishing to sacrifice more men than he could possibly help to the cool fire of the enemy from Winchester rifles. Early on Tuesday afternoon it became known to the volunteers that the period of inaction which was so vexatious to them, was to be put an end to in some way or other. The plans were kept secret so that the proposed attack should be a surprise to the enemy. At half-past two o'clock in the afternoon orders were passed round, and all were in readiness for a general attack. Shortly after the men were advancing quickly down on the rifle pits and when within range they advanced at the double with fixed bayonets. Quick as had been these movements, they were not so quick but that the defenders of the rifle pits had time to prepare a hot welcome for their adversaries, accordingly when the volunteers were within short rifle range they poured a volley into their ranks which wounded many and killed several. There was no time for a second such volley; the volunteers were upon the rebels and drove them at the bayonet's point from their rifle pits down into the ravine, out of the ravine into their last place of refuge, the village of Batoche; and before they had time to rally the rebels were chased from the village and utterly defeated. Their rifle pits extended about a mile in length, but the action only covered a third of this distance. Once the troops had possession of a portion of their defences, the rebels saw the uselessness of attempting to hold the rifle pits, and escaped into the ravine. They made a good deal of resistance here but the blood of the volunteers was up and they were finally driven out. When they retired on Batoche's and proposed to hold out there it was too late and they were forced to fly. Just as Gen. Middleton ordered the attack on the rifle pits, Riel sent a message to him asking that their women and children should not be fired on or they would kill all their white prisoners. Gen. Middleton sent back word that if the women and children were kept apart they would not be touched. The attack then began. Riel did not wish to keep to his promise, if breaking it could prevent the attack being made on the rebels, and he accordingly wrote on an envelope that he would kill the prisoners anyway. This last message had no effect and the attack was made before he had time to murder those whites whom he held, otherwise he would very probably have carried out his threat. The loss among the troops was four killed and eighteen wounded whilst the rebels' loss is estimated at from fifty to seventy killed and many wounded.

RIEL'S CAPTURE.

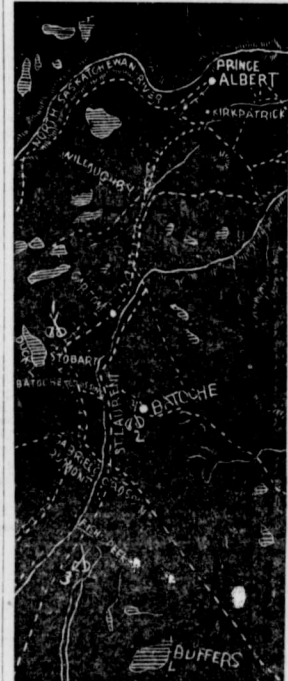
It is quite possible that Riel might have joined Poundmaker after his defeat at Batoche's and influenced that chief to make resistance to the last if he had not himself been caught. His capture was effected in this way. It was ascertained that the arch-rebel and several of his followers had moved towards the river after having evacuated Batoche's, seeking the means to cross it and join a party of rebels on the western border of the river. Scouts patrolling the river banks came upon Riel

and his small band and challenged him. The scouts were fired on but made a dash and the rebels scattered. Riel was soon recognized and was pursued. He had apparently taken the precaution to provide for a quick retreat or flight, and was mounted on a stalwart pony. He set off at a hard gallop on the scouts coming up, but was finally overhauled in his race for life and surrendered without firing a shot, but not without threats. On the evening of Friday of last week he was brought into Gen. Middleton's camp. He was taken direct to the General's tent and no one was allowed to see him. The three scouts who had captured him were some of the most reckless and daring men in the force. Gen. Middleton had previously promised him and his council a fair civil trial if they would surrender themselves. When he was caught therefore, he was anxious to know if he would still have this privilege. He prayed not to be shot. When informed by one of his captors that he would be tried by martial law he drew a long breath but said nothing. He had some hopes of getting off if tried by civil law but no chance of life if tried by court-martial. Afterwards he was informed by Gen. Middleton that he would be tried by civil law. The prisoner appears careworn and anxious, as well he may. He has let his hair and beard grow long and when caught was dressed in a poorer fashion than most half-breeds. He is terribly frightened and is constantly fearing violence at the hands of the soldiers. Gabriel Dumont is being looked for by the scouts and it is thought he may surrender.

The rebellion, so far as the half-breeds are concerned, has been summarily quelled. It now remains to be seen what course the Indians under Poundmaker and Big Bear will pursue. If they attempt to hold out in the woods, where the trees are now nearly in full leaf, it will be almost impossible to drive them from their native strongholds except by surrounding and starving them out. The forests are large and full of game so that if the Indians keep up hostilities it will necessitate a long protracted campaign against them. Efforts will be made to cut off their retreat to the west while they are yet between the North and South Saskatchewan, but it is feared that having heard of Riel's defeat they are already too far off to be intercepted in their flight westward. Poundmaker had marched his band some distance eastward to join Riel before the latter had been defeated, and on his way had attacked a train of thirty-one supply waggon going northward from Battleford. These he captured, ten of the teamsters escaping. On Poundmaker's receiving the news of Riel's defeat he began to retreat westward and it remains to be seen whether he will accomplish his escape past Edmonton or not.

The steamer "Northcote" had an exciting run down to Batoche's. The intention was to have her anchored about half a mile above that place but the rebels kept firing briskly at those on board and it was found necessary to advance five miles below Batoche's Crossing. Fortunately for those on board, the sides of the steambot were well barricaded

and C. School of Infantry returned the enemy's fire. At one time it looked as if the rebels might capture the boat, but this catastrophe was averted.



SCENE OF THE FIGHT.

THE NUMBER of laborers seeking employment in the United States in agriculture at the present time is unusually large; yet there are many localities in almost every section of the country in which more or less complaint of scarcity is made. Many correspondents speak of the prevailing aversion to farm labor or preference for employment in other branches of industry. In the Southern States many complain of the unwillingness of colored people to work steadily; others testify of increased industry on the part of the colored people, but attribute it to hard times and more urgent necessity for industry as an alternative to starvation. When there are farmers seeking for laborers and laborers starving for lack of work there is evidently something wrong in the way each of these classes go about finding its requirements. If the unemployed laborers in the city were to open an office through which communications might reach them from farmers they would quickly get work. This would be a better way than for individual men to roam round the country looking for jobs, and be subject to the risk of being taken for professional tramps.

THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS has granted an annuity of \$30,000 to the Princess Beatrice.