

WAITING FOR THE WIRES.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE FRONT INTERRUPTED.

Somewhat about the scene of Saturday's skirmishing—A sensational item from the front.

WINNIPEG, May 11.—Telegraphic communication is still interrupted between the government line, probably caused by the burning of poles by rebel fire. Men have started from the ridge on the east of the government line, probably caused by the burning of poles by rebel fire.

Fin weather has set in to-day, being regular summer weather, and an agreeable change from the stormy weather of last week. It has, however, its drawbacks in again causing a fall in the river.

Gen. Strange has telegraphed for more arms and ammunition for the Edmonton division.

Indian Agent Re returns to-morrow to Battleford. He will drive across the prairie alone. He does not fear molestation from Indians.

Matters at Battleford.

BATTLEFORD, May 10.—The day has been quiet, but, impressive services being held morning and evening.

The bridge over the Battle river is complete and will be used by the troops.

The body of Lafontaine, the scout, has been brought in. It had been mutilated, and will be buried to-morrow.

The scouts report that Poundmaker is sending all squaws and children away for safe keeping, evidently fearing that the attack will be renewed at an early date.

The wounded are progressing finely.

Preparations are apparently being made for another visit to Mr. Poundmaker, but this time it will be made with more caution and in greater force.

The Indians are very wary and watch our movements with intense concern.

The boys continue in their sports and yesterday (Saturday) had several games at football, cricket and baseball.

Shots have been fired once or twice by the scouts and outfits with passing Indians, but no result has been reported.

Mr. Watson asked would the government propose a vote for the relief of the settlers in the Northwest whose property had been destroyed by insurgents.

Mr. Cameron asked what had become of the boats sent to Winnipeg for the Toronto corps.

Mr. Carson said the boats arrived at Winnipeg after the troops had left and had been sent on to Qu'Appelle.

Sir John, replying to a question, said no correspondence had taken place with the imperial government on the subject of the troubles in the Northwest.

Batoche and the District.

The country east of Dumont's crossing is mostly open prairie, with here and there a bluffs, a clump of poplars or a marshy coulee.

The bluffs are from five to three miles from the Saskatchewan prairie slope eastward, and not toward that river.

This will be better understood when it is known that in the district immediately east of the line from Fish Creek to Batoche are the numerous sources or fountain heads of the Root or Carroli river.

This river, as it does within five miles of Batoche, flows easterly for a distance of 180 miles, where it empties itself into the Saskatchewan far below the junction of the two branches.

The South of the Root river, and extending parallel with it, run the Pasquia hills, while north of it, sources, and a few miles northeast of Batoche stretch the Birch Hills.

These pass the coulee route from Humboldt to Prince Albert. It crosses the hills which rise from the river in steps.

These steps and the slopes leading to them are intersected by numerous coulees or ravines—deep, narrow and thickly wooded. They frequently measure not more than thirty feet from bank to bank, and vary in depth from ten to thirty feet.

So numerous and irregular are these ravines that the Hudson Bay company named this district the "Lumpy Hills."

Past this district the river flows about four miles an hour, has a fall of 2.55-100

feet in a mile, and at high water in July is 50 feet wide and from 10 to 12 feet deep.

At the present there is not such a great depth of water on account of the floods from the mountains not having reached the plains.

In the action of Saturday the rebels were first on the left of the ridge on the east and southeast of Batoche. Along this ridge our volunteers drove the rebels for nearly a mile.

Rebels after ride pit was rendered untenable, and when firing ceased on Saturday morning the rebels were in the possession of the hill on the east of the ridge.

The rebels were then entrenched in a bend of the river to the north of Batoche with their rifle pits extending up the face of the bluffs toward the hills on the east of the ridge.

It will thus be observed that our men held them in a cordon. But unfortunately that cordon is a very large one. Still, if Col. Irvine, with his 200 policemen, has arrived and completed the cordon, the rebels, if they are not already cut off from retreat, will be easily cut off from retreat.

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day. The utmost despatch possible will be shown in sending supplies and materials.

Mrs. Edward Blake, treasurer, acknowledged the following subscriptions to the relief fund: Alex. Manning, \$10; Orestes J. Jarvis, \$10; Jarvis street Baptist church, \$10; J. G. Calder, \$10; J. G. Calder, \$10; J. G. Calder, \$10.

London, May 11.—In the commons the Marquis of Hartington said the conclusion reached by the government practically involved the abandonment of the advance on Khartoum.

He said the government had resolved to make Wady Halfa the most advanced position as a permanent defence of Egypt.

The British troops would be withdrawn as soon as the Nile rises. This will probably occur about the end of May.

The statement was received with cheers and the government benches were warmly applauded.

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SACRIFICING THE SOUDAN.

MR. GLADSTONE WILL NOT SMASH THE MARSH.

The Troops to be Withdrawn as Early as Possible. The Government Sustained by a Majority of Thirty.

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years, ignorant of the use of rifles, which some of them were hardly able to carry.

The British conservative papers do not seem to be so adverse to the government as the liberal press, although they would like to see Sir Stafford Northcote's motion carried. That, however, is the course of the ministry's general policy.

It is said in Calcutta that the only thing that can soothe public feeling against the government is an explicit statement of his understanding with the ameer.

At the Old Bailey.

Commencement of the Trial of Cunningham and Burton.

London, May 11.—The trial of Cunningham and Burton for alleged complicity in the dynamite outrage at Westminster hall and the tower of London, began this morning at the Old Bailey, Mr. Justice Hawkins presiding.

The prosecution is conducted by Attorney General James and Solicitor-General Herschell, assisted by Pollard, Pollock and Waddell.

A number of communications were read. Among them was the usual number of claims against the city for broken limbs, and on account of alleged defects in the ways and pavement.

The attorney-general for the prosecution, stated that he expected to prove that Cunningham and Burton were the authors of the outrage at the Victoria railway station.

So far the evidence has been a repetition of that taken at the preliminary trial.

Justice Hawkins granted permission to Little and Richards to interview Cunningham and Burton this afternoon, and they proceeded to the prison to do so.

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TWO ANGRY ALDERMEN.

A Passage at Arms at the City Council Chamber.

The only stirring event at the regular meeting of the city council last night was a lively passage-at-arms between Ald. J. Woods and Ald. McKenzie. Ald. Woods, at the opening of the council, rose to a question of privilege.

He said that Ald. McKenzie had stated at the last meeting of the board of works that he (Ald. Woods) had had his position as an alderman to obtain large amounts for Desjardins avenue property owners in connection with their claims against the city.

Ald. Woods said that at the time he had interested himself in the arbitration he was not a member of the council. He called upon Ald. McKenzie to retract the statement, but that gentleman only made an evasive reply.

Ald. Woods then passed before the matter dropped. In reply to Ald. Crocker, Ald. Allen said the sanitary inspectors had commenced their labors and were doing good work.

A number of communications were read. Among them was the usual number of claims against the city for broken limbs, and on account of alleged defects in the ways and pavement.

The attorney-general for the prosecution, stated that he expected to prove that Cunningham and Burton were the authors of the outrage at the Victoria railway station.

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PRICE ONE CENT

A CLOSURE FOR CANADA.

PRESSURE ON SIR JOHN MACDONALD TO ADOPT IT.

An Appeal to the Opposition Not Fulfilled to Obstruct the Business of the Country.

OTTAWA, May 11.—In the commons Sir John Macdonald moved that commencing to-morrow the house meet at 1.30 p.m. Carried.

Sir Leonard Tilley here entered the house and was greeted with hearty cheers from both sides.

The house then went into committee on the franchise bill.

Sir John said he could not agree to the amendment exempting Prince Edward Island from operation of the bill because it was desirable to secure uniformity, and also because a few, if any, would be disfranchised by this measure.