

Carleton some days ago were compelled to turn back, the whole Battle river country being alive with insurgents, Indians as well as half-breeds. News from this point is as usual with the anxiety. Should there be serious trouble at Edmonton and Battleford, and also at Wood Mountain the position will be perilous in the extreme. The general belief is that General Middleton will wait here with the Winnipeg militia until the arrival of reinforcements from Eastern Canada. There are not more than 400 men to garrison here to Carleton and Prince Albert, through 250 miles of broken country, with 800 well-equipped half-breeds menacing his front and flank movements. It is not yet certain how the Indians will go. Should Beaulieu, Pound Maker, and Red Pheasant, with other Cree and Sisseton bands, in the north and east, numbering over 15,000 souls, side with the half-breeds as army of 5,000 troops would have its hands full. Archibald McDonald, chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company here, says that he has had a conference with Piapot and other chiefs on Saturday the Indians on this side of the South Saskatchewan are quiet, but those to the north of the river are greatly excited.

THE INDIANS. The length of the campaign entirely depends on the Indians. If they remain loyal it will not be a difficult thing to overpower them with a few battalions, but if they aid him a long and bloody contest must ensue. We understand the authorities have been advised in case of any such should rise, to send friendly tribes and pit them against those in the rebellion. Such a course may become necessary as a last resort, but under the circumstances would be attended with grave danger to the future peace of the country. The fight would at once assume the character of an inter-tribal war, the end of which no man could foretell. It would render life very properly insecure for all time or at all events until the struggle had ended in the annihilation of all Indians concerned in it.

DIFFICULTIES. Still another objection to the Mail from Qu'Appelle, says: "A terrific blizzard has been raging most of to-day and Sunday, and at 9 p. m. was still snowing. This fresh snow will probably render the use of wagons for the transportation of troops impossible. Sleighs would certainly make the journey in much better time. General Middleton keeps a close mouth, but it is evident he does not intend to advance until more troops arrive, though he may perhaps go up to Fort Qu'Appelle, 10 miles north of here, whether some of the troops have already gone. All day long the troops have been learning how to march in serried ranks. Farmers are flocking in with their teams. Should the camping last much longer no seeding will be done this year. Freighters with supplies going north from the railway have been stopped en route for fear they should be captured by the rebels. All troops here are well and full of enthusiasm, and all soldiers among them are looking anxiously for reinforcements from Eastern Canada. A retired sergeant-major of the British army, who has been here for a long time, says the country between Fort Qu'Appelle and Prince Albert, 240 miles, is admirably adapted for the sort of warfare that will be pursued by the half-breeds. It consists of undulating prairie, with deep ravines, hills, rivers, small lakes and innumerable groves of poplar, which will afford a perfect cover for the rebels. They know every advantageous point, whereas the troops under Gen. Middleton will have to go it blind and trust to luck.

REACHING FROM AMHERST. Mr. McManus says the Batteries of Artillery will be of little use in such a region. The half-breeds will not attempt to fight in open but will be content to camp and literally "shoot without being seen." He thinks, too, that the half-breeds, being admirable horsemen, will have a great advantage over the volunteers as regards rapidity of movement and concentration. Then the Remingtons, with which they are armed, are much superior to the Snider-Enfield in the hands of the troops. He says the half-breeds are quite as formidable as those of the Boers, the farmers with whom the British regulars had such a hard job at Majuba hill and elsewhere. He says it will, to some extent, be a question of marksmanship, and that he believes again the half-breeds are infinitely stronger than the volunteers or the regulars. McManus has shot and hunted many times over the country lying between here and Prince Albert, and he thinks it will afford the half-breeds innumerable opportunities for ambushing troops. He is convinced that the General Middleton will not attempt to go much further north of this until he receives large reinforcements, and it is the opinion that 3,000 regulars could not deal with the rising as it stands, and that it is twice that number would be none too many.

TEACHERY. Sir John Macdonald has received a telegram stating that the loss of life in the engagement at Duck Lake, on Thursday, was owing to the treachery of the rebels. The telegram states that Major O'Leary, with mounted police and civilians, moved forward on Thursday morning, in a party with the rebels at Duck Lake, and under a flag of truce began to communicate with a view to the cessation of hostilities, and it was while they were proceeding that the rebels opened fire. A Winnipeg special says authentic information has been received of the rebel loss at Duck Lake. Only one man was wounded. No one was killed. The rebels fought throughout under cover. Nothing could be seen of them by the police, smoke wreaths from their long range rifles being the only visible sign of their presence in the bluff.

PERSONAL. The detachment from "A" Battery, Quebec, is under command of Captain Peters, son of Mr. W. T. Peters, formerly of St. John, now living at Apohaqui. Captain Drury, son of W. Chipman Drury, St. John, is one of the officers. There are many New Brunswickers attending the school at Quebec and it is thought several St. John and Portland men are among those who have gone West. The Fredericton Capital says: (Correspondent of F. G. Gifford, whose name appears among the wounded list mentioned in the last engagement, is a brother of Major Gordon, of the Fredericton Infantry School.) Lieut-Col W. S. Morris, Major Thomas Dunsmuir and Little Pine, former residents and well known in this city, all belong to this force.

THE CAUSES OF THE REBELLION. Staffington Elliott, son of Judge Elliott of London, Ont., in letters written to his family forebode the outbreak. His letters appear to have left for the wrong of the settlers, but did not anticipate that their wrongs would bring on open rebellion. He told in various letters, how lands, which had been killed by half-breeds for years, were given over their heads by the Dominion government to land sharks and speculators, who turned these settlers and sold their homesteads at their own sweet will. He again and again said that the half-breeds had great cause for complaint on account of the injustices done them, and were threatening to rise. He told how Riel had returned and how a council had been called and an ultimatum issued to the Dominion government, saying that if some satisfactory arrangement to settle the claims of half-breeds were not made within 15 days they would rise. Elliott subsequently wrote that Riel gives just until the 17th of March to act. In his letter to Home B. Elliott, March 4, he says: "Riel says he had several thousand Indians who will rise at a word from him. If they do we will be in an awkward position, for the government have taken our arms from us."

The following is a portion of a letter written by a young man residing at Prince Albert, N. W. T., on the 21st inst. and received by his parents in Toronto a few days ago: "I have been thinking of late about the state of the country, and the history of the country, and its destiny for well or woe I might further say, so far as the immediate effects of the rebellion from any action on the part of the government, I refer to the probability of arising among the half-breeds. Louis Riel is still in the country, and several large meetings have been held throughout the country and many resolutions have been passed. For example, one man stated that Ontario with Wm. Lyon McKenna as its head, should have the right of the bayonet, and it justly belongs to follow his footsteps. This is a Canadian, showing that the feeling is not altogether one of the half-breeds against the government of the country. I might further add there is a distinction between fancy and reality, and while some of this is doubtless fancy, nevertheless a large proportion is reality. Louis Riel is urged to take a prominent part in the struggle to carry out his desire in English half-breeds who say they will not go into anything unconstitutional, and will as long as he keeps within bounds go with him. The gravity of the situation lies in the fact that this has been a very hard year and the Canadian and Canadians as well as the country in general. The failure of the crops has not only ruined the farmers, but has also ruined many hard times tales could be told of the way farmers have been living this last winter. Scarcely a black as ink and as hard as hard tack, with black ice, has been the food of the majority. Thus you see that very little over and above next door to starvation would make them desperate. Further they have been receiving letters continually for the past months from the chiefs of the Indians of the country offering them help and pleading support. This is what makes the situation more desperate. They are also in constant communication with Piapot, one of the most desperate Indian chiefs in the country, with at least 1,000 followers. He has a Scotch native, states that they are all good shots, both half-breeds and Indians, and he was also telling me should any thing take place in the movement of the country, that the movement extends in a large measure throughout the country, and both natives and Indians are hostile to the Government. Some estimates place the total that could be mustered to take a prominent part in the movement at about 30,000 Indians and about 50,000 half-breeds. This is no exaggeration; some even go up to a total of 80,000. Several of the leading citizens of this place are seriously considering the advisability of sending their sons to the Government, and supporting it on foot among Government supporters to secretly telegraph the position of affairs to the government, but so far as we can procure the telegraph code and do not propose in these troublous times to run the risk of open communication. The half-breeds have a desperate fear as well as a strong liking for British troops, and an equally strong detestation of Canadian troops and everything Canadian. This is owing to their being intimidated by the Canadians in 1870, and they therefore believe them thoroughly incapable of performing anything like justice. They think them the very opposite of anything Scotch, Irish or English. I give you these few points thinking there might be a possibility of my not being able to finish them as regards rapidity of movement and concentration. Then the Remingtons, with which they are armed, are much superior to the Snider-Enfield in the hands of the troops. He says the half-breeds are quite as formidable as those of the Boers, the farmers with whom the British regulars had such a hard job at Majuba hill and elsewhere. He says it will, to some extent, be a question of marksmanship, and that he believes again the half-breeds are infinitely stronger than the volunteers or the regulars. McManus has shot and hunted many times over the country lying between here and Prince Albert, and he thinks it will afford the half-breeds innumerable opportunities for ambushing troops. He is convinced that the General Middleton will not attempt to go much further north of this until he receives large reinforcements, and it is the opinion that 3,000 regulars could not deal with the rising as it stands, and that it is twice that number would be none too many.

MR. BLAKE'S BOLD DECLARATION. Mr. Blake in view of what has been said will only add that I will hold the government both personally and politically responsible; no matter what the cost may be, no matter whether we purchase, no matter how many special trains may be engaged or the price, if men are not only speedily sent to the front but supplied with the very best arms and ammunition. (Opposition and municipal cheers.) St. John to the astonishment of his followers, rose and characterized Mr. Blake's statement as impudent and a piece of impudence on the part of the leader of the opposition. Mr. Blake repeated the statement, and said while he had many dear friends in the Northwest he would hold the government most personally as well as politically responsible. It would only be murder to send me hurriedly armed under such circumstances. (Cheers.) In answer to Mr. Blake, Sir John Macdonald stated that Lord Meighen had tendered to go to the Northwest to fill a position under General Middleton, and that the commission would start next Thursday. Sir John promised to lay papers on the table.

MR. IVEE WHO IS SON IN LEADER. Mr. Ives who is son in law of Minister Pope, was of opinion that there was too much declamation about the rebellion, and the people of the United States never thought anything of ten or twelve men being killed. It was a weekly occurrence the country. Mr. Watson (Marquette) rebuked this atrocious remark by Mr. Ives and pointed out that the lives of white settlers, who were surrounded by Indians, would be in jeopardy.

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