

the farmers of Canada have gone largely into the raising of the various Downs. Wool is more valuable, and its increased price is largely due to the operation of the tariff. At the same time, I do think that the introduction of this shoddy is going to have an injurious effect upon the wool market.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

THE DISTURBANCE IN THE NORTH-WEST.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I have to announce that I received a telegram this afternoon from Col. Irvine who had arrived at Carleton. His telegram is not dated, but it bears the date to-day of Winnipeg, so that I cannot exactly say when it was written.

"CARLTON, N.W.T.

"Party under my command just arrived. When near Fort Carlton found that Crozier with party of 100 went to Duck Lake to secure a large quantity of supplies there stored. Were met by some 200 rebels who held an advantageous position at Beardy's Reserve, and endeavored to surround police and civilians. Rebels fired first, when it became general. Crozier, owing to the disadvantage at which he was taken, retreated orderly, arriving at fort same time as my party. Ten civilians of Prince Albert and two policemen were killed, and four civilians and seven constables wounded. The following are the names:

"KILLED.

"Constables: T. J. Gibson, George Pearce Arnold. Civilians: Captain John Meriton, William Napier, S. Elliot, D. Mackenzie, Charles Newitt, Alexander Fisher, James Bakely, Robert Middleton, D. MacPhail, Joseph Anderson.

WOUNDED.

Civilians: Captain Moore, leg broken; A. MacNab, W. R. Markley, Alex. Stewart. Police: Inspector J. Howe, N.B., Corporal Gilchrist, Constables G. K. Garrett, S. F. Gordon, A. M. Smith, J. J. Moore, A. Miller.

The number of rebels killed not known. The police and civilians acted with the greatest bravery under a heavy fire."

That is the telegram from Colonel Irvine. The telegram that I mentioned as being under cipher was one from General Middleton to the Minister of Militia, merely conveying the rumor and asking that the battery be sent forward. I take this occasion to say that yesterday while the trouble was localised, I thought that reticence was the proper and politic course; but now that it has assumed the proportions it has assumed, the fullest information will be given to the House from time to time.

Mr. BLAKE. If it be at all consistent with the public interest I think it is important that the hon. gentleman should make now, or at a later hour this evening, a statement, if he has the information at hand, as to what is the condition of the food supplies at the various places where food is collected for the purpose of the police or for feeding the Indians. It is very obvious that the possibility of the Indians taking an effective part in this unhappy business must greatly depend on their food supply, and if the food supplies are in positions in which they cannot get access to them, if they are so situated, I fancy the anxiety with respect to that point will be very much diminished.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The food supply over that vast country is like such a supply being spread over Ontario and Quebec, as the hon. gentleman knows. I received a telegraphic message from the Lieutenant Governor of the North-West, he being then at Regina, stating that the Indians and every one else were quiet along the line. There was a telegram received from Mr. Egan, who is in charge of the traffic arrangements of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which says that at Oak Lake, a place on the line, a half-breed was arrested while attempting to place an obstruction on the railway—I presume for the purpose of preventing the 90th regiment going to Qu'Appelle. And he stated that Riel had 1,500 men under him and six cannon—American cannon was the expression used. That was the statement of this man, and it must be taken *quantum valeat*. I am not in a position to-night to say where the different quantities

Mr. ORTON.

of food are collected, and perhaps it would not be wise to point out where these are stored. However, I shall get a paper prepared on that point, and will communicate it to the hon. gentleman; and I think under the circumstances I can confidently rely upon his support in this matter.

Mr. BLAKE. I suggested that question as I wished to be assured that the hon. gentleman was satisfied whether these people knew where these supplies are, or whether they did not know. If they do not know, I do not want to know.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I fancy the insurgents, if I may call them so, do not know where these stores are.

Mr. BLAKE. Then I do not want to know. I would invite the hon. gentleman, after the statement he has made, the latter statement, which I am sure the House will receive with such a measure of gratification as they can receive anything which the Government can communicate at the present time, to cause such papers to be prepared as will, in effect, answer the motion which I made yesterday, and which, under the sense of duty which animated him, he thought it not fitting at that moment to grant. The hon. gentleman has now stated that in the present condition of this unhappy business he will communicate, from time to time, all information he can without danger to the public interest. It is quite obvious, I conceive, that it can be no detriment to the public interest, whatever difference may have existed a few hours ago on that subject, to communicate to the House information as to the past; and the information which I yesterday invited the hon. gentleman to give, or such part as he conceives he can give without danger to the public interest, I ask him to furnish at the very earliest moment.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I shall be very glad to give full information as to the past, so far as it does not shed too strong a light on the future.

Mr. IVES. I desire to ask: Does the hon. gentleman propose to use the Canadian route for the transportation of "B" Battery; and if so, what delay will be incurred by part of the railway not being constructed; also, whether there will be any serious delay in portaging over the portions of the road on which rails have not been laid.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Steps were taken some days ago to communicate with Mr. Harry Abbott, a brother of the hon. member for Argenteuil, who is in charge as engineer, and he has made all preparations to forward any troops that may go by that route. The troops must go by that route; and they will go quicker by that route than by any other route, after communicating with Washington. And, moreover, it is much better that they should go by that route. There are some 70 miles in all that will have to be travelled by other means than by rail. To the north of Lake Superior we may rely on the snow lying, as long as we have it here, and sleighs and teams will be got without difficulty on that line, and there is a large body of men employed on the railway who can be used. The military will be carried across the gaps and no material delay will be occasioned. They will be carried in sleighs across the gaps until they come to the place where they can be carried safely by rail to Winnipeg. Then they can go on by rail without interruption to the foot of the Rocky Mountains. So far as we know, the whole hostile force is concentrated in the vicinity of Prince Albert and Duck Lake, and thereabouts.

Mr. BLAKE. When do you expect "B" Battery to leave?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It is ordered to go at once.

Mr. CARON. I may state that, after receiving the news which the leader of the Government has just communicated,