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REPORT OF THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL

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REPORT OF MAJOR IRVINE.

Fort Garry,
23rd October, 1871.

SIR,—I have the honor to report that for some time back there have been rumours of Fenians collecting on the Frontier, in the neighbourhood of Pembina—which rumours on reliable information obtained by the Lieutenant Governor, proved to be true. His Honour the Lieutenant Governor issued a Proclamation on the 3rd inst., calling on all loyal subjects to enrol.

At the request of the Lieutenant Governor, I called out the Winnipeg Volunteer Company (Captain Kennedy's) and quartered them in the Fort, and notified the remainder of the Volunteer Active Militia in the Province to hold themselves in readiness for active service.

As I understood the Fenians contemplated a raid on Fort Garry, I took every precaution by throwing up earthworks, increasing sentries, &c. On the 4th inst. I called out the remainder of the Active Militia, and ordered them to report at Fort Garry. The officials and employes of the Honorable H. B. Company at Fort Garry, enrolled themselves under the command of Donald A. Smith, Esq., and the citizens of the town of Winnipeg also enrolled themselves in one company about 100 strong, under Capt. Stewart Mulvey, late of the 1st or Ontario Rifles, composed almost entirely of discharged men from the Ontario and Quebec Battalions, and a Home Guard under Captain the Honorable Thomas Howard, composed of the merchants and citizens of Winnipeg. Capt. Howard, however, resigned the command in favor of Capt. Bain. These companies, with the Mapleton Volunteer Company (Capt. Piton's) were inspected by the Lieutenant Governor at 4.30 p.m. on the 4th, in front of the Fort. Companies were being formed, and rolls sent in (copies of which I have forwarded) from all parts of the Province.

On the 6th inst., about 11.30 a.m., the Lieutenant Governor sent for me and informed me that the Fort at Pembina had been taken, and that the Fenians were some twelve or fifteen miles of the Province, and wished me at once to despatch a force to meet them. I immediately sent orders to Captain Mulvey to parade his company at Fort Garry for active service. In less than an hour, Captain Mulvey reported himself with seventy-one men. These men were served out with rifles and eighty rounds of ammunition per man. As we had no

great coats in store, I had blue capots from the H. B. stores issued to them.

The Honorable H. B. Company's Corps enrolled under the Lieutenant Governor's Proclamation, and the remainder of the companies of the Active Militia I formed into a Provisional Battalion, and left them to garrison Fort Garry, under the command of Capt. Allen McDonald. A company was enrolled, under the Proclamation, by Capt. Bedson, at the Stone Fort. This company was served out with rifles, and remained to garrison that Fort.

I left Fort Garry at 4.30 p.m. on the 6th, with the two service companies. The Winnipeg Volunteer Company (Captain Kennedy's) with a 7-pounder mountain gun, and Captain Stewart Mulvey's Company, enrolled under the Lieutenant Governor's Proclamation, (marching-out state annexed). I took with me ten days' provisions, and all necessary camp equipment, intrenching tools, &c.; I also took a reserve of 20,000 rounds of ammunition, the transport being supplied by the Control Officer, Major Peebles.

A drizzling rain fell all the afternoon, but soon after crossing the Assiniboine River night set in and a heavy rain fell, making the roads very heavy, the mud being almost knee deep, and the night intensely dark, we marched about four miles where we camped for the night. The following day I marched as far as St. Norbert, or about one and a half miles beyond Stinking River, where we camped for the night. The rain had stopped and the weather was clear and cold, and the roads good. On the 8th I was joined by Capt. de Plainval with two officers and thirty men, twelve of whom were mounted. I marched as far as the house of Mr. Leroque's (twenty-two miles from Fort Garry). Hearing that the American troops had turned the Fenians out of the Province, and that there was no chance of my being able to capture the leaders, and that if another raid were to be attempted it would be likely to be from the neighborhood of St. Joe, I returned to Fort Garry, leaving Leroque's at 2 p.m. on the 9th, and arriving at Fort Garry at 1.30 p.m. on the 10th.

When the Force under my command arrived within the Fort they were addressed by the Lieutenant Governor, who thanked them for the manner in which they had turned out. I then relieved the Provincial Militia Corps from active service; and the rifles, accoutrements and capots were returned into store. I, however, retained the services of Capt. Kennedy's Company, which I thought advisable to keep on duty a short time longer to assist the Service Companies in garrisoning Fort Garry.

I cannot speak too highly of the behavior

of the men throughout. The greatest credit is due to Captain Mulvey and his officers, Lieutenant Hymann and Ensign Cooper for the wonderfully short time in which they enrolled their men, and reported to me after receiving the order.

I enclose statement showing the strength of all companies enrolled under the Lieutenant Governor's Proclamation, as well as the Companies of the Volunteer Active Militia. Scouting parties were formed under the Proclamation; the whole of them were under the command of Captain Villiers, who kept all the roads well guarded; they were very useful in keeping us informed of what was going on. On the 8th some 200 French half breeds met at St. Boniface and tendered their services. The Lieutenant Governor accepted the services of about fifty of them, who acted as scouts. On the 17th I received a report (which I enclose) from Captain Royal who accompanied these men.

I must mention that several of the H. B. officials, from their different posts in the North West, happened to be at Fort Garry at this time attending their Annual Council. These gentlemen were amongst the first who tendered their services as mounted scouts, and placed themselves under the command of Captain Villiers. They went at once to the front at their own expense, and refused to accept any remuneration for their services.

The Lieutenant Governor was kind enough to place his A. D. C. and Private Secretary, Mr. Bouthillier, at my service. He accompanied me throughout, and was of great assistance to me.

I beg to record the prompt and efficient manner in which Major Peebles, the Control Officer, discharged the arduous and important duties of his department; and it is due to his energy and efficiency that I was enabled to proceed in so short a notice to the front.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
A. G. IRVINE, Major,
Commanding Dominion
Troops, Manitoba.

The Adjutant-General of Militia,
Ottawa.

CAPTAIN ROYAL'S REPORT.

St. Boniface,
17th October, 1871.

Major Irvine, Commanding Dominion Troops in Manitoba, &c.

SIR,—I beg to report that having succeeded to organize a troop of thirty mounted scouts among the natives, leaving to them their own mode of division by section of ten men, under the command of a captain or chief