

From 'Advance' Extra of Saturday Evening

(Special despatches to the Miramichi Advance.)

The Northwest Rebellion I

A BATTLE WITH THE REBELS!

The Prairie Fired.

The Killed and Wounded.

Gen. Middleton's hat shot through.

WINNIPEG, April 24th. Gen. Middleton, with the advanced detachment on the right bank of the Sasatchewan, encountered the rebels 15 miles south of Batoche's crossing; 200 Indians and French half-breeds lay in ambush in the ravine, and opened heavy fire on our troops.

The casualties upon the side of the volunteers were pretty large on account of the surprise.

Private Ferguson and Sergt. Mackin, sharpshooters of the 90th Batt., are known to be killed. Some 50 are reported wounded. Among the latter is Capt. Clark of No. 6 company 90th Batt.

Gen. Middleton had a rifle bullet fired through his hat. The battle began about 9 o'clock this morning and was in progress about one o'clock.

The rebels set fire to the prairie, but a heavy rain storm put the fire out. The general at once surrounded the ravine and the hope is expressed that none of the rebels have escaped.

"A" battery is also reported to have suffered some in both killed and wounded.

A later despatch announces that the fighting began at 9.15 a.m. The rebels, advancing from the creek near the river, opened fire upon the scouts led by Major Boulton, the latter returning the fire, when the rebels remounted and returned to their place of ambush. From the ambush they rose each time in firing.

Gen. Middleton at once deployed the troops in skirmishing order. "A" Battery could not at first feel the enemy with the guns, so good was their shelter. Eventually, however, the battery got into better position and raised a raking fire among them. Two hours in which the rebel reserves were scolded, were demolished.

The rebels next made a dash and fought the 90th at close quarters, but a severe fire from the left wing forced the rebels to retire.

The fight was Indian style on the part of the rebels, who were always either concealed behind trees or on bluffs. Their fire was hot and very effective. Capt. Clark, with the sharpshooters, first advanced in skirmishing order, after the scouts signalled danger, and closely following were the Toronto infantrymen, the latter taking the right flank. The conflict now became general and terribly severe.

The Indians were exceedingly combative, and the war whoop could be heard distinctly some distance off. They rained time and again, keeping up an incessant fire for fully an hour. Subsequently the fire slackened on the part of the enemy, but was again resumed shortly after noon.

The prairie was set on fire as the result of the battle, but the heavy rain which set in about noon, quenched it.

The casualties so far reported are two men of the 90th killed and Capt. Clark and ten men wounded. One general and three others wounded. One man of "C" Infantry killed and three others wounded.

The party of rebels have been successfully driven from their ambush in the ravine by hard fighting of the volunteers.

Gen. Middleton had a close call being shot through the hat. "A" Battery, under A. D. C. had his horse shot under him. The Tenth Royal came up to the relief from the opposite side of the river and were in the conflict.

OTTAWA, April 25. An official despatch from Gen. Middleton this morning to the Minister of Militia confirms the press reports of the engagement yesterday.

The battle occurred 25 miles from Clark's crossing. Scouts moving in advance of the main force were fired upon by rebels behind a bluff. A hot fire was turned by the scouts who held their ground gamely until the main force came up.

Three members of the 90th battalion, Winnipeg, were killed. Some 25 of the rebels were wounded.

The general says the men behaved well, but he regrets the large number of casualties, which he attributes to the mode of fighting pursued by the rebels.

Both of Gen. Middleton's A. D. C. were wounded and the General himself had a bullet through his hat.

Lord Melgund, leader of the firing, crossed over the river from the west bank with the 10th Royal and the 1st of the Winnipeg Field Battery, but the fight was over before they reached the scene of action.

The engagement lasted from 9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

The general believed the enemy suffered considerable loss and says the advantage of their position may have caused less casualties on their side than to his force.

Four of the most expert of the rebel sharpshooters are now surrounded by the volunteers. The general does not deem it advisable to make any attack upon them, but is desiring that they should exhaust their ammunition.

The whole detachment departed down the west bank of the river under Lord Melgund and Col. Montezuma of "A" battery has returned and the force are again united and are now marching on Batoche's camp, about fifteen miles distant, after having burned the dead.

A square and papose were found dead on Masqueto's reserve, having, probably, been murdered.

LOSOS, APRIL 26th. A despatch from St. Petersburg received here yesterday afternoon states that the Car has issued an imperative ukase sanctioning the raising of a large force of Turcoman militia by General Komaroff.

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An imperial Council meeting was held on Saturday and it was decided to reply to the Car favored the most moderate address. It is possible he may accompany them to the front as chaplain and will also get lady nurses.

CLARK'S CROSSING, April 28. Sergeant Dalton, of Boulton's troops, Courier for General Middleton, has just arrived here and brings exciting news. He says Friday's fight was a great deal more disastrous to rebels than was at first supposed, and that Gen. Middleton's forces won a decided victory.

It is positively known that twenty-five half-breeds and Indians were killed, and that number were counted dead upon the field.

Among the dead was the body of Gabriel Dumont, a prominent rebel leader who was killed by a bullet towards the close of the engagement, while urging on his men.

Sergeant Dalton also reports that Riel was seen among the rebels during the engagement, but towards evening he fled from the ravine and made towards his stronghold at Batoche, for reinforcements. It is supposed.

A corps composed of "C" Company and grenadiers pursued the retreating squad of rebels for a short distance but was recalled before inflicting any damage on them. The total number of volunteers killed, Dalton says is seven. Over twenty rebel ponies lie dead along the ravine.

Arthur Watson of School of Infantry died from effects of his wound on Friday night.

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The rebels seem to have followed the troops to camp and were defiantly awaiting a renewal of hostilities, which they are likely to receive with more vigor than before.

The rebel loss, if any, is said to be very small. The place for the fight was well chosen, giving rebels a great advantage over our men fighting.

The scene of the fight is an open prairie a mile in length, ending in a slightly inclined hill with bluffs on each side. The bluffs are well wooded.

On the north side of ravine rebels were entrenched in force and from thence they poured a deadly fire upon the volunteers, while the latter were unable to see the enemy, who were hidden behind trees and rocks and from their place of ambush poked out their men with great accuracy.

Even the guns of "A" battery failed to dislodge the enemy.

The rebels are reported to have gone in direction of Batoche Crossing. Troops will have to pass the entire distance through thick wooded country.

Gen. Middleton camped last night on the south side of the ravine and about midway between the battle and the crossing. The total casualties on the Volunteers' side in the engagement is put down at 12 killed and 50 wounded.

The Governor General's body guard reached Qu'Appelle at noon yesterday and started immediately for the support of Gen. Middleton, and it is thought that the rebels will now endeavor to cut off the troops supplies by the capture of Clark's Crossing.

In this event the loss to our troops would be terrible to estimate.

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