

propose sending two companies, Midland, in the two steamers, and will send on Colonel Beacon's detachment from Maple Creek as soon as I can call it in, and I will hold Seventh ready to follow if the river route keeps good.

J. W. LAURIE.

OTTAWA, 7th May, 1885.

Major-General LAURIE, Swift Current.

Please let me know what orders were given by General Middleton in reference to Williams' regiment, and if his orders were carried out.

A. P. CARON.

*From Swift Current, 7th, to Hon. A. P. Caron.*

OTTAWA, 8th May, 1885.

Am not aware of any order given by General Middleton in reference to Williams' regiments, or any other except that he and his battalion were to go on the "Northcote," and they were sent, but I believe they want water bottles and clothing, and I have repeatedly asked for both, but I have not received either.

J. W. LAURIE.

*From Swift Current, 12th, to Hon. A. P. Caron.*

OTTAWA, 13th May, 1885.

Teams now at Calgary would be most conveniently employed with General Strange's brigade. North of Calgary, just now, there are plenty teams on line running from Swift Current and if we move base to Moose Jaw shall not require any more but ox-teams; would probably be best at the extreme north end of the line as the oxen would not want any hay but few oats. Will wire General Middleton to know if he wants any with him.

J. W. LAURIE.

OTTAWA, 13th May, 1885.

To Major-General LAURIE, Swift Current.

All right. I think your suggestion a good one. You can act upon it.

A. P. CARON.

OTTAWA, 16th May, 1885.

To Major-General LAURIE, Swift Current.

Can't you send boat to give fully communication by river with Strange's command?

A. P. CARON.

*From Winnipeg, 16th, to Hon. A. P. Caron.*

OTTAWA, 16th May, 1885.

I have a report from Col. Otter that supply teams were captured thirteen miles from Battleford. They contained provisions and forage but no ammunition. I wired Col. Otter asking if he can clear danger part of road near Battleford so as to allow teams to pass for the present, and meantime have stopped outgoing teams at river. It was most providential that river ferry had been out of order for some days, and consequently very few teams were on road. I had received orders that no escort should be sent north of river, and there should not be any danger for strong convoys till it reached within forty miles of Battleford. Since my proposal to Col. Otter to clear out that part of that road, I am now preparing convoy of provisions at river numbering one hundred and thirty teams, and with this number of armed teamsters