

bright and restless. He speaks very rapidly, and much after the manner of French Canadians, a superabundance of gesture being a noticeable feature both in his conversation and his "oratory." He was born in the Red River Settlement, but when a mere boy he was sent under the patronage of Bishop Tache to one of the Catholic colleges in Montreal, where he completed his education. It is said that at one time he intended studying for the priesthood, but afterwards changed his mind. His powers as a public speaker were noted and favorably commented on while he was at college. During his earlier days he spent his time much as the other young men of his race used to do in that country in those days, which means a little farming and a good deal of buffalo hunting. It was not until the autumn of 1869 that Riel came prominently before the public. His first act of rebellion was when Col. Dennis and his surveyors were running a base line through the property of some of the anti-Canadian party. Mr. Webb and his men were running the line when Riel, followed by a party of unarmed half-breeds, put his foot on the chain they were using and ordered them to quit work. They took his advice and retired, and he next figures in the history of that insurrection as leader of the party of malcontents who had erected the barrier on the Pembina trail at Rivière Salle on the 21st of October, 1869, against the entrance of Lieut.-Gov. Macdougall. Here the Red River Rebellion began to take a definite shape and to assume alarming proportions. At this time John Bruce or Brouse was president and Louis Riel secretary of the insurgent party, but as a matter of fact Riel was all along the real leader of the movement, or at least the real leader so far as that functionary was ever known to the general public.

**THE LOYALIST LEADER.**

Major-General Middleton, who has had military directions of the campaign against Riel, is commander of the militia of Canada. He first became known in Canada at the time of the Trent affair, as a major in the 29th regiment. He served ten years on the staff of General Windham, and was afterwards appointed commandant of the Royal Military College. He has seen active service in New Zealand and India, and was engaged in the Sepoy mutiny of 1857-58. At the siege of Lucknow he was A.D.C. to General Luard, and his gallant conduct there gained him the brevet of "Major."

He was time and again specially mentioned in "Home Despatches" during that mutiny, and has received the order of C.B. He was recommended to Lord Clyde for the Victoria Cross for two notable acts of victory. General Middleton was appointed to the command of the Canadian militia last year.

**THE FIRST BATTLE.**

WEDNESDAY, March 25th.—Major Crozier, with one hundred men, comprising mounted police and volunteers from Prince Albert, while proceeding from Fort Carleton to Duck Lake, some ten miles distant, to regain possession of some supplies which had been surrounded there, and which the rebels had seized at the first outbreak, came in contact with 200 rebel half-breeds, who endeavoured to surround Crozier's force, probably with the intention of taking them prisoners. Not succeeding in this they fired a volley which was replied to by Crozier's men. The firing lasted some time when Crozier, finding his men far outnumbered, retreated to Fort Carleton, not however, without serious loss, twelve loyalists being killed and eleven wounded. The policemen and civilians acted with the greatest bravery under heavy fire.

**KILLED.**

REGIMENT—  
CONSTABLE T. J. GIBSON.  
CONSTABLE G. P. ARNOLD.

**CIVILIANS—**

CAPT. JOHN MERITON.  
W. NAPIER, a notary public of Prince Albert.  
JAMES BAKELY.  
S. NAPIER ELLIOTT, a lawyer, nephew of Judge Elliott, of London, and of Hon. Ed. Blake.  
ROBERT MIDDLETON.  
D. MACKENZIE.  
D. MCPHAIL, a hardware merchant from Aylmer, Quebec.  
CHARLES NEWITT, a carpenter from Ontario.  
JOSEPH ANDERSON.  
ALEXANDER FISHER.

**WOUNDED.**

CIVILIANS—  
CAPT. MOORE (leg broken) saw-mill owner, Prince Albert.  
A. MACNAB.  
W. R. MARKLEY, a general storekeeper from Ontario.  
ALEXANDER STEWART, from Nova Scotia.

**MOUNTED POLICE—**

INSPECTOR J. HOWE.  
CORPORAL GICHRIST.  
CONSTABLE GARRETT.  
S. F. GORDON, brother-in-law of Mr. Fuller, at one time editor of the Kingston *Whig*.  
A. W. SMITH.  
J. J. MOORE.  
A. MILLER.

A later dispatch states that the firing was begun by the rebels while Major Crozier was holding a parley with them under a flag of truce. The rebels are reported to have lost 47 killed and wounded. The cannon of the Mounted Police rendered effective service in covering the retreat to Fort Carleton. But for them inevitable disaster would have followed.

Col. Irvine decided to abandon the fort at Carleton and remove to Prince Albert. Fort Carleton is not defensible, on account of being on the river flat, dominated by a high hill, from which the rebels could fire into it. The situation at Prince Albert is advantageous for defence, and the settlers there also need protection. Before leaving Carleton, the police destroyed all the stores there, and the fort was set on fire by Irvine's orders to prevent falling into the rebels' hands.

A half-breed reports that when Irvine and Crozier retired to Prince Albert, Riel followed and the half-breed is quite certain another engagement took place.

**THE SACKING OF BATTLEFORD.**

A despatch from Battleford on March 30th said that Poundmaker, the powerful Chief of the Cree Indians, was concentrating his tribes in large numbers in Battleford, 500 strong, more coming in all the time, threatening to burn the town and take possession of the stores and barracks. All the women and children were hurried into the barracks, and all the men enrolled for service, and arms and ammunition issued to them. Nearly all the police have been withdrawn to Prince Albert, and the supply of arms is limited. It is believed the barracks can be defended against the Indians if they should make an attack.

Advices from Battleford, on the 31st, show that the situation is getting worse. The half-breeds and Indians were plundering the stores. Mr. McKay and the Indian agent ventured out of the barracks and remonstrated with them and were fired upon. The men in the barracks think they can hold out until relieved. They have provisions for a month. The Stony Indians have joined the others and killed James Payne and Geo. E. Applegarth, Indian instructors, and two settlers. The buildings on the south side have been burned, including the Hudson Bay Company's stores, the Industrial Buildings and Government Buildings. Colonel Herchener has left Regina for Battleford, via Swift Current, with 70 mounted police and one cannon; he can reach there in six days if not interrupted. It is feared the half-breeds from Duck Lake will come to Battleford and cut off all communication and probably interrupt Herchener. The Indians from Fort Pitt District between Battleford and Edmonton are likely to join these at Battleford. The wires are still broken between Battleford and Edmonton.

The population of Battleford is not more than 600, about one-half of whom are white. There are some good farms in the neighbourhood. On the north shore from the town is a large stock and dairy farm, owned by two ex-mounted policemen. It is surmised that they may be the two settlers killed in the skirmish yesterday.

WINNIPEG, April 1st.—Three bands of Crees are now encamped on the south side of Battleford, and these expect that Big Bear's bands and the Fort Pitt Indians will join them. A family who left Batoche the day of the fight at Duck Lake say that things are pretty serious, and that Big Bear and Beardy, with 1,000 armed warriors, are with Riel. All the settlers were ordered to stay on their farms or take up arms on pain of death. Among the prisoners held by the rebels are George and John Kerr, and Baker, of Walker & Baker, operator Thomson, and Postmaster Mitchell of Duck Lake, together with a lot of freighters, whose freight was confiscated. The rebels refused to let the mail go out, and threaten to shoot the carriers. Some settlers coming into Battleford were robbed of their horses, wagons and loads. Others are coming in from the settlements in a destitute condition. Half-breeds are going towards Clarke's Crossing to cut the telegraph wires to Battleford.

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