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TORONTO, APRIL 11th, 1885.

THE SITUATION AT THE FRONT.

No further engagement has yet taken place, but inactivity has given place to action, and the troops are now moving forward to meet the enemy. Orders were issued about 8 a.m. on the 29th ult., and one hour and a half later half of the 90th Battalion (Winnipeg) Lifes, with one of the guns of the Winnipeg Field Battery, set out from Qu'Appelle station for Fort Qu'Appelle. At half past nine the cavalcade started, the strains of the 90th Battalion band and the cheers of the people of the town mingling together and making a magnificent farewell as the advance body of the North-West Field Force, as it has been christened by General Middleton, marched up the streets and disappeared over a swell on the prairie. General Middleton accompanied the party on horseback, and Major Boswell travelled in a like manner, while the other officers secured seats in the waggon. Along the trail the settlers turned out and the few Indians who were met gazed in astonishment at the unusual sight. The distance, as the crow flies, is about eighteen miles, but as the trail winds around among the undulations of the plains it is probably over twenty. After a sharp trip of about three hours the troops obtained their first view of the Qu'Appelle valley. About a mile back from the valley the trail strikes a ravine, and there the descent commenced. The road has been built at some expense, and meanders down the gorge, the banks overhead growing higher and higher each moment, until when one strikes the bottoms one can look up three hundred feet to where one stood fifteen or twenty minutes before. There was a grand view of the Qu'Appelle lakes, still frozen solid. These lakes are in the form of a chain, and are connected by the river, the distance between each being about a mile. The entire chain would be navigable by a small steamer. It is from these sheets of water that the Indians on the surrounding reserves derive their principal supply of food, namely, fish, with which the lakes teem at all seasons of the year.

As at present laid down, General Middleton's plan is to move on to Clark's Crossing of the South Saskatchewan, via Touchwood

Hills and Humboldt, then on to Battleford or Prince Albert, as the circumstances or events may suggest. Supplies are being forwarded with all speed to the front, and as the South Saskatchewan will be open in a few days, a steamer can be sent down stream from Medicine Hat with other supplies. The Ontario and Quebec volunteers will follow as quickly as they can be transported, and in two or three weeks over 1,000 men will be encamped at Clark's Crossing. Riel's scouts have been seen near Humboldt, but Riel's exact whereabouts is unknown. He is said, however, to have left Duck Lake. The general impression of the old-timers is that the campaign will not be a bloodless one, but the rebels are much more likely to retire across the North Saskatchewan into the great northern forest. There is no doubt that the wily rebel leader is kept well informed regarding the movements and the strength of the troops. He has friends and sympathizers amongst his compatriots throughout the country, and it is wonderful how rapidly they can convey intelligence from the most distant points. Time and space they annihilate with the easy readiness of the gentleman of the seven-leagued boots. Riel is too cunning to meet an overpowering force, and when he hears of its approach he will flee to the north for safety. He must either fight or run. There can be no middle course. If he fights, as he says he will unless arrangements are made with him, the result is foreordained. If he runs he may not escape very easily except by the forest.

It is not likely that Gen. Middleton's command will be able to cross the Saskatchewan in less than a fortnight, and not probable that he will attempt to force a crossing in face of a hostile demonstration until the eastern troops reinforce his small advance guard.

S. L. Bedson, warden of Manitoba Penitentiary, has charge of the transport service, which he has thoroughly organized. There are 350 teams, divided into right and left divisions, each of which is sub-divided into sub-divisions of ten teams, under a head-teamster. They pay about seven dollars per day for teams, and drivers find their food and forage. Mr. Bedson is ably assisted by J. H. E. Secretan, C.E., so well known throughout that country. They estimate that they will have to transport for the troops now here, including teamsters, numbering 650 men, 73,800 lbs. of food and 768,000 lbs. of forage for the teams, to last them thirty days. Sub-divisions of ten teams will be placed in charge of a head-teamster, who will be held responsible by transport officers in charge of divisions. Drivers will obey the orders of the head-teamsters of their sub-divisions. When on the move sub-divisions will keep together as much as practicable, and head-teamsters must see that in emergencies teams assist each other, doubling-up if necessary, in ascending hills or crossing soft places. Each head-teamster will be supplied with cooking kit for ten men; he will appoint one of his drivers as cook, a mess of ten thus being formed for each sub-division. During the preparation of meals head-teamsters will detail in regular order one driver who will feed and take care of the cook's team. Troops when occupying seats in waggons, will be governed by the orders of the transport staff, as approved by the Major-General commanding, and must assist transport corps in every possible manner, and especially when ascending hills, etc. Spare waggon-poles, whiffletrees, neck yokes, etc., will be supplied to each sub-division. In event of any breakage head-teamsters in charge of sub-divisions will be held responsible that no unnecessary delay occurs in repairing same, and must report nature of breakage to transport-officer as soon as possible. In forming encampments each division will form an oblong as directed by transport-officer in charge. Horses are to be secured inside the formation. Every precaution is to be taken to secure horses properly, as a stampede would seriously embarrass the advance of the force. Oats and hay will be issued to the head-teamsters for twenty-four hours each night on making camp, and head-teamsters will be held responsible that no waste occurs. Drivers of waggons containing ammunition will be provided with red flags which must be displayed conspicuously on horses' head-gear.

"A" Battery (from Quebec) commanded by Col. Montizambert, 115 strong, reached Qu'Appelle station on the evening of the 6th inst., and started next morning to join Gen. Middleton, whom they will, no doubt, overtake before he reaches Humboldt.

The first train of the Toronto bridge, conveying the Queen's Own and "C" company, School of Infantry, reached Winnipeg at 3.30

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