

## PLAN OF MILITARY OPERATIONS.

QU'APPELLE, April 1.—The reports of rebels having field pieces are untrue. Riel at present has between 1,500 and 2,000 men. The rebels seize all inward mail matter. Qu'Appelle half-breeds are quiet, but show a tendency to approve of Riel's action. The Blood and Flathead Indians have a great opinion of Riel. It is reported that emissaries say the troops coming from Winnipeg will be attacked at Touchwood. It is intended to make Touchwood Hills the forward base of supplies and hauling north of Fort Qu'Appelle. It is calculated to have 200 loads at Touchwood by Thursday. There is no word yet of the start of the troops. Gen. Middleton told a correspondent that he did not know when he would start. He said that Riel could not have chosen a worse time for the expedition. The General is greatly excited about crossing the river. From what he said it is evident he will not commence his march until all the troops arrive. He stated emphatically he intended to get the troops now at the fort through. He will move to Touchwood on Friday, and the troops here will move to Fort Qu'Appelle.

## THE UPRISING AT PILE HILLS.

A despatch from Qu'Appelle on 30th inst. reported an outbreak of the Indians in the File Hill Reserve, 30 miles north-west of Fort Qu'Appelle. Gen. Middleton having ascertained that 300 had joined the rebel movement there and killed the Indian agent, Nichols, sent forward to that point three companies of the 90th Rifles (Winnipeg), under command of Col. Houghton and Major Buchan, together with one gun and a portion of the field battery. The File Hills are close upon the Pheasant Plains, and the reserve must be in close proximity to the white settlers on every side.

J. Nichols was sent to File Hills as Government Farm Instructor some years ago. His relatives reside in Carleton County, Ontario. Up to the end of last year, nothing had occurred to indicate that Nichols was otherwise than well liked by the members of the four bands under his charge. At Indian Head, which is within striking distance of File Hills, Piapot has a band of 500 Crees, well mounted and well armed, and it will surprise no one who knows Piapot to learn that he has also raised the standard of rebellion. There are in Treaty No. 4 over 7,000 Indians, and now the trouble has begun among them, a large proportion of the 5,000 Crees and Saulteux may openly ally themselves with the malcontents. The Indians in this treaty are the most enlightened and civilized in the territory.

## DISCUSSIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

On the 26th March, in answer to a question by Mr. Casey, Sir Hector Langevin said that Riel had not been in the employ of the Government during the past year, and was not at that date.

In answer to Mr. Blake, Sir John Macdonald said:—"We are quite unaware of the proximate causes of the half-breed rising under Riel. Riel came into the country invited by them (the half-breeds) some time ago. I believe he came for the purpose of attempting to extract money from the public purse. We received intimation last summer that if the Government would give him a sum of money, the sum of \$5,000 was mentioned, he would withdraw. This proposition, of course, could not be entertained for a moment. He remained there inciting the half-breeds and attempting to rouse the Indians, by telling them the country belonged to them. The statement has been made that Riel was told he was an outlaw and not a British subject, and had no right in the country. Such an intimation was never made so far as I know. He was considered, on account of the former occurrences, a sort of martyr in the cause, and a sort of half-breed 'Mahdi'; and looked up to with a superstitious regard. He acts upon the feeling of these poor people. I do not believe there is the slightest danger from the half-breeds unless they should be joined by the Indians."

Mr. Robertson, of Hastings, asked whether Gatling guns had been provided for our troops. He believed that 100 shots per minute could be fired by them. Hon. Mr. Caron, Minister of Militia, said in answer to the Hon. gentleman—"I may say that Gatlings have been ordered. I think every possible precaution has been taken in regard to arming the troops and forwarding them as rapidly as possible to where they are required. In answer to Mr. Gault, Mr. Caron said—"We have furnished very good arms to the men now sent to the front, and we shall serve out to all who go the very best arms we can procure, considering the short notice upon which we were called upon."

## THE LATEST NEWS.

WINNIPEG, April 1.—Nearly all the Saskatchewan Indians are ready for pillage and bloodshed. The Battleford people are still safe in barracks. The Indians have suddenly gone off in a western direction. They are not expected to stay away long, and are probably plundering the deserted farms near by. Col. Herchmer left Regina to-day for the relief of Battleford with forty men and two field guns. A. McDonald proposed to raise 100 volunteers to go with Herchmer, but his brother in Battleford advised him that it was no use, as the force could not get through. It is feared that Herchmer will have little chance to reach Battleford. The worst fears are entertained for Fort Pitt, as only twenty-five police and a few soldiers are there, and nothing has been heard from them for several days. Communication is still cut off with Prince Albert, but it is thought that settlement is safe. The Hudson Bay Company's agent at Battleford went out this morning to secure stores across the Battle River. Four rebels were loading a cart and buckboard, and under cover of the cannon the agent captured the buckboard and wounded one man. The agent found the stock badly scattered, and removed what was left to the barracks.

Lt.-Gov. Dewdney is again at Fort Qu'Appelle in consultation with Gen. Middleton. The Sioux Indians at Oak Lake, west of Brandon, are contented and loyal, and can be enrolled on the Government side. The half-breeds, on the contrary, would assist Riel but for the military. The mail route between Swift Current and Battleford cannot be opened. Big Bear's band and the Fort Pitt Indians have joined Riel. Montana half-breeds are also said to be taking part in the movement. Father Le Bre, of the Fort Qu'Appelle mission, says between 7,000 and 10,000 well-armed troops will be required to suppress the rebellion. Many settlers at Saskatchewan and other places have abandoned their homesteads leaving everything to the Indians, who plunder and destroy everything in their path. Settlers arriving at Fort Qu'Appelle, from the north, report that their path at night was lit up at stretches with the burning barns and houses. The Indian insurrection is much more serious than the half-breed rising, on account of their desperate condition, their motives being starvation, love of plunder, and revenge on deceitful Government agents. All the repeating rifles and ammunition in St. Paul, Minneapolis, Fargo and other points have been sent for by the Government.

The burning and sacking of the town of Battleford by the Crees is confirmed. The half-breeds around Duck Lake are expected to join in the attack upon the barracks to be made under the immediate direction of Pound-Maker. Three bands of Crees are now encamped on the south side of Battleford, and it is expected that Big Bear's band and the Fort Pitt Indians, numbering 800 warriors, will join them, the meeting-place being the scene of last summer's conflict with the police.

QU'APPELLE, April 1.—It is estimated that Riel has now between fifteen hundred and two thousand men at his command. They are generally well-armed, but the report that they have field pieces is untrue. It is undoubted that he is receiving aid from the other side, as some men have been seen with him who are not half-breeds, Indians or settlers, but are strangers, entirely unacquainted with the country. It is also rumored that he has received a consignment of dynamite, but it is considered extremely improbable, as it is difficult to understand to what use he could put it. Emissaries from the north say the troops coming from Winnipeg will be attacked at Touchwood. Gen. Middleton expects to move to Touchwood on Friday, but he will not make any important aggressive movement until he can muster about 1,500 men.

A courier reports Prince Albert entirely surrounded, and Col. Irvine and Major Crozier with the police hemmed in by a vastly superior force. The runner brought a request for doctors, and a party left this morning for there with Doctor Dodd, who is confident, by the aid of scouts that he will take with him, of being able to get through.

The Touchwood Indians to the north of here are greatly excited, and it is feared that they will harass the troops on their progress north.

It is very cold, but fine. Gen. Middleton is evidently not enamored of the climate, and has no relish for penetrating further into the precincts of the north pole.

The gloomy news from Battleford has excited troops here so that they clamor for a

# T. THOMPSON & SON



Because Scott loved his country,  
Nor would to rebels bow,  
He was butchered at Fort Garry,  
Kneeling on the snow,  
Which blushed that sad March morning  
For the British soil below.

That day, almost forgotten,  
Now called to mind again,  
Can never be forgiven  
Till his murderers are slain;—  
Till the rebel Riel is taken  
And the land's at peace again.

Ontario, the first province,  
As quick to act as feel,  
Speaks, and a thousand soldiers  
With batteries of steel  
Make haste to cross the prairie,  
And crush the monster Riel.

The Mammoth feels uneasy,  
Through all his mighty frame;  
Our vacillating statesmen  
Disgrace our country's name.  
They make our burdens heavier,  
While they glory in their shame.

Go, ministers of vengeance,  
In panoply of right;  
Ontario's heart and body  
Trembles with joy to fight;  
While the tyrant's victims weary  
To see your bayonets' light.

Hoard every drop of anger,  
Nor waste a single sup,  
Until that double murderer  
Is made to drink it up.  
To his own lips his malice  
Commend—and hold the cup.

Our red hot wrath has fused us,  
And made our people ONE;  
And, on the cloud, the rainbow  
Reflects the rising sun.  
We stand to-day UNITED,  
Who—who will lead us on?

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