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*Downing Street, August 9, 1885.*

THE Secretary of State for the Colonies has received from the Governor-General of Canada the following Despatches and their Enclosures from Major-General F. Middleton, C.B., Commanding Forces in the North-West Territory of the Dominion:—

Copy of the Official Reports of Major-General Middleton, C.B. (Commanding the North West Field Forces) relating to engagements at Fish Creek, April 24, 1885; Cree Reserve (Pound-maker), March 2, 1885; Batoche, March 9, 10, 11, and 12, 1885, with list of Killed and Wounded.

## FISH CREEK.

*North West Field Force, Head Quarters,  
Fish Creek, May 1, 1885.*

SIR, I HAVE the honour to state, for the information of His Excellency the Governor-General and yourself, the following particulars of the engagement between my force and that of the rebels on the 24th of April last, which I have been unable to do before, except by telegraph, owing to having so much to do in reconnoitring, getting up supplies, and making arrangements for the movement of the troops in the other parts of the North West Territory.

I had previously informed you of the division of my forces, and on the morning of the 23rd both columns advanced on the two sides of the river, with the scow moving down between them. We halted about eighteen miles down the river, my column near the farm of a settler named McIntosh, the other in a line with us on the other side. After a quiet night, we started on the morning of the 24th at about 7 A.M., with the usual military precaution.

Mounted Infantry scouts spread out well in front, with support of Mounted Infantry under Major Boulton, about 200 yards in rear. An advance guard of the 90th Battalion about 300 yards in rear of that, and the main column about 200 to 300 yards in rear of the advanced guard.

Though I had not been led to believe that the rebels would not come so far to the front to attack us, still I was aware of the existence of a rather deep ravine or creek about five or six miles ahead, consequently I was on this occasion, with the support under Major Boulton, accompanied by Captain Haig, Royal Engineers, Assistant-Quartermaster General, and my two Aides-de-Camp Captain Wise and Lieutenant Doucet, and Mr. MacDowell attached to my staff. On approach-

ing some bluffs just as the left advanced scouts were circling round, we suddenly received a heavy fire from a bluff and some ground sloping back on our left, which fire was luckily too high to do mischief, having been evidently fired in a hurry owing to the approach of the left scouts. Major Boulton instantly ordered his men to dismount, let loose their horses (two of which were immediately shot), and hold the enemy in check. This was done by them most gallantly—the flankers and files in front falling back on the main body. I sent Captain Wise back with orders to bring up the advanced guard and main body, which was soon done, though in going with the order Captain Wise's horse was hit by a shot from the bluffs on the left. The advanced guard, on arrival, extended and took cover in the bluffs nearest us, and as the main body came up, two more companies of the 90th were extended, the rebels advancing up out of the ravine, into which, however, they again speedily retired and a heavy fire was exchanged, but having sent a party round to a house on the enemy's right the enemy gradually retired along the ravine, while our men advanced slowly to the crest of a deeply wooded part running out of the main ravine. In this former ravine a small party of the rebels made a stand in what we found afterwards to be some carefully constructed rifle pits. These men were evidently their best shots—Gabriel Dumont being amongst them, but were, so to speak, caught in a trap. A great number of their horses and ponies being in this ravine, and, what is said to be very unusual, were tied up, thus showing, I am informed, that the rebels were pretty confident of success; 55 of these horses were killed. These men were gradually reduced in number until, from the position of our men, it was almost impossible for them to retire, and they continued to fire at intervals, doing a good deal of mischief. Captain Peters with great pluck and dash led the dismounted men of the A Battery, supported by a party of the 90th, under Captain Ruttan, and gallantly attempted to dislodge them, but they were so well covered and were able to bring such a heavy fire on the party advancing without been seen, killing three men, two artillery men and one of the 90th (the body of one artillery man was afterwards found within eight or ten yards of their pits) that I resolved to leave them, contenting myself with extending more of the 90th in front to watch them and sending some shells into the bluff now and then. Lieutenant-Colonel Houghron, my Deputy Adjutant-General,