

THE SKEENA RIVER REVOLT.

GEN. MIDDLETON READY TO SEND A
LARGE FORCE TO THE FIELD.

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, July 21.—The Skeena River revolt continues to cause the greatest excitement. The local militia is prepared to start for the scene of the outbreak on short notice. A messenger arrived from Hazelton last night. He says when he escaped the Indians were still laying siege to Hudson's Bay Fort, where all the white population are gathered. The garrison, he says, could not hold out much longer, and he fears that troops now on the way there will not arrive in time. Gen. Middleton, who commanded the troops during the last rebellion, has again been called upon to direct the troops in this revolt. He has wired the military authorities in British Columbia as follows:

"Can put 5,000 men on cars in 24 hours en route for scene of outbreak."

The people of British Columbia hope, however, that their own forces can quell the insurrection. Steamers sailed to-day from Victoria for Skeena with dispatches and supplies. The steamer Boskowitz will return from Skeena next week, and until then it is not probable any news will be had from the seat of war. It is said that Indian tribes in that region are pretty well divided against one another and that probably some of them would side with the whites against their enemies. In that case the result will probably be a bitter Indian war.

A short distance above the mouth of the Skeena River lies Duncan Island, where dwell a ferocious band of Indians known as the Metlakahita tribe, which gave so much trouble to the Government a few years ago, but who afterward fled to some point in Alaska. This tribe has signified its willingness to join the rebels and is reported on the way to Hazelton. A rebellion much more serious than that of a couple of years ago is predicted by those who know the character of the redskins now on the war path.

The school for mounted infantry troop of regulars stationed here have been called out and leave as soon as possible for Hazelton. Orders were received from Ottawa to-night, where it is said the most alarming intelligence has been received. The Ninetieth Battalion, which was first at the front in the last rebellion, are notified to hold themselves in readiness, and are making preparations for hasty departure. The greatest excitement prevails here.

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