

The Depot, Calgary - 1st Bn, Victoria - 2nd Battalion, Calgary - 3rd Bn, Toronto

BELLEVILLE RIOT - 1 January 1877

The following is taken from "Correspondence respecting Disturbance on the line of the Grand Trunk Railway January 1st, 1877" printed by Order of Parliament:

Telegram

Belleville, 1st January 1877

To Lieut-Col Durie, Toronto

Upon the sworn information of Henry Colbourne Snyder, Sergeant Police of Belleville, a riot and disturbance of the peace has occurred at the station of the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada at Belleville, in the County of Hastings, in which passengers and other trains and Her Majesty's mails have been stopped and impeded, and the lives of engine drivers and firemen threatened. We, the undersigned Magistrates and Justices of the Peace of the said Town of Belleville hereby require and command you, under and by virtue of the power vested in us by the Statutes of Canada respecting the Militia and defence of the Dominion of Canada, to call out such a militia force under your command as you may consider necessary to suppress and prevent such riot as heretofore mentioned.

(signed) W. Foster
Mayor of Belleville

(signed) A. Diamond
Postmaster of Belleville

Belleville, 3rd January 1877

To Col Powell, Ottawa

Arrived with "Queen's Own" and train at eleven, P.M.

(Signed) WS Durie Lt Col

Old Fort, Toronto
5th January 1877

The Adjutant General of Militia
Headquarters, Ottawa.

Sir:-

"In obedience to orders, Lieut-Col Otter, officers, and men mustered at Old Fort at 7:30 a.m. 2nd January, left Toronto at 11:30 a.m. arrived Belleville 10:30 p.m."

"Required to press back the mob with fixed bayonets, some wounds, assistance rendered by Dr. Thoburn, Queen's Own Rifles, Private Cooper cut over left eye from a stone, Major Miller received severe blow on head from lump of snow and ice."

"Queen's Own R.M.F. returned to Toronto on 4th January."