

the receptacle is the common jail of the respective counties. New Brunswick, consequently, will have to adopt the same course. I understand that before the penitentiary in St. John was closed, all the prisoners convicted throughout New Brunswick were sent there, no matter what the crime was or how trifling the punishment imposed. I declined to submit to the Supreme Court the question, because I thought it was one which Parliament should deal with and not the Supreme Court.

Motion agreed to.

TENTH BATTALION OF MILITIA.

Mr. STRANGE, in moving for copies of all reports, papers, correspondence, telegrams, and Militia orders, relating to the 10th Battalion, Active Militia of Canada, from the 1st day of January, 1875, to the 1st day of January, 1881, said that three or four years ago a number of the officers of the regiment had some little disagreement among themselves which injured the efficiency of the regiment very much. Without going into the cause of the difficulty he wished for the paper in order that the public and those interested in military matters might understand exactly how the case stood. He wished, however, to draw the attention of the House to what he considered to be a great hardship that had been inflicted upon several officers who were not participants in any way in the quarrels of the regiment. The condition of the regiment arrived at such a pitch that, the Government, a few months ago, found it necessary to deprive all the gentlemen holding commissions in that regiment of their commissions. Although he believed it was in the interest of the regiment that those who were in the quarrel should lose their commissions, still he felt a great injustice had been done to many of the junior officers of the regiment. The case had been presented to him by some of those officers, one a volunteer of twelve years standing in England, who had been eleven years in the Canadian militia, and had the honor of being elected as a member of the Wimbledon team for three successive years. This gentleman stated that without any cause he had been virtually deprived of his commission, and he felt that he was in disgrace in consequence. His sons were growing up. One of them was imbued with a military spirit and wished to join the militia of Canada, but he felt if his father was to be cashiered for the offences of his superior officers, he should think twice before joining the force. He (Mr. Strange) trusted the papers would be brought down, so that the whole of the militia force might understand exactly how the matter stood.

Motion agreed to.

DOMINION LANDS.

Mr. MILLS, in moving for a return showing the amount appropriated each year on account of Dominion Lands, showing the sum expended in surveys, the amount expended in management, the area surveyed, and the area surveyed which is still unoccupied, said he did not know how far the information asked for in this motion had been embraced in other motions made this Session. He thought the information would be useful to the House, and perhaps to the right hon. gentleman himself, when brought under his notice in a tabulated form. Some years ago the practice was to make extensive surveys of public lands far beyond what the progress of settlement required. But those lands had been obliterated, and it was now almost impossible to tell the exact limits of the various sections and quarter-sections. He desired to know whether this policy had been revived since the right hon. gentleman had come back to power.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said this information had already been produced, but if his hon. friend required to see Mr. McDONALD (Pictou).

it separately he could be accommodated. In 1872 the surveys were in advance of the progress of settlement, but for the last two or three years the opposite was the case. Population was going far beyond the surveys, and considerable expenditure would be required for surveys in those portions of the country.

Mr. MILLS suggested that the return should be accompanied by a map, indicating where the country had been surveyed and where settlement had taken place.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT understood that most of the boundary marks in the North-West were of wood, and were frequently destroyed by prairie fires. If the expense would not be too great, he thought some of the principal marks, at least, ought to be composed of some more enduring material, such as stone or iron.

Motion agreed to.

NORTH-WEST TIMBER LIMITS.

Mr. MERNER, in moving for a return of the several timber limits granted to parties in the North-West Territories, the names of those to whom they were granted, the locality of the said limits and the number of acres specified, said that the granting of timber limits by the Government was a cause of great hardship to the settlers, who were not permitted to cut a stick of timber thereon for the purpose of building a house. The same difficulty prevailed in Ontario, and caused hundreds of people to leave Canada and go to the United States. In the United States no timber limits were granted, and he thought the Government should abolish them here, especially as timber was very scarce in the North-West.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD stated that of late years, especially since 1878, timber limits had been granted only to parties who undertook to erect saw mills, in order to supply settlers with lumber for building purposes. It was attempted, of course, as much as possible, to confine these limits to portions of the country not adopted or not sought after for settlement, and they were now only granted annually, so that if at any time the section where they existed was sought after for settlement, the department could stop the cutting of timber.

Motion agreed to.

EXPLORATIONS OF THE RIVER YAMASKA.

Mr. MASSUE, in moving for a copy of the Engineer who made, in 1880, an exploration of the River Yamaska from its mouth to Belle Pointe, in the counties of Bagot and St. Hyacinthe, said: I desire to draw the attention of the Government to the necessity of rendering navigable that part of the River Yamaska extending from its mouth to St. Hugues, in the county of Bagot, a distance of some twenty-one miles. Steamboats can run in spring and autumn as far as St. Aimé, but it is impossible for them to continue running during the summer season, because heretofore that part of the river has not received from preceding Administrations the attention it deserved. In insisting upon this improvement, I am only fulfilling a duty from which profit will accrue to the Province of Quebec, and naturally to the whole Dominion. If, as I trust, we succeed in this undertaking; if the present Government, who so well understand the advantages of improvements, as the basis of the future prosperity of the country, look favorably on this question, which has been under consideration since 1859, I say it, with conviction, will render justice to a population of about 130,000 souls living on the banks of this river which runs through the counties of Rouville, St. Hyacinthe, Bagot, Richelieu and Yamaska. Last year the hon. member for Rouville (Mr. Gigault) showed us the advantages that the counties just