

beginning of what I believe will be a proper organisation of the force there."

My hon. friend from Marquette said :

"I think probably too much of this money is spent in Winnipeg. There are rural towns which might have a company and have their headquarters in Winnipeg. There is Portage la Prairie, Minnedosa, Rapid City, and also Brandon. It should be distributed more through the Province and not confined to Winnipeg."

As I have said, there was a feeling, obviously, in 1879 and 1880, and I will say throughout, as far as we can judge, except in so far as that feeling was chilled by the action of the Government, in favor of their policy of establishing local corps, and I observe, in the *Prince Albert Times* of 4th April, 1884, a statement upon that subject :

"We are glad to learn that an officer, who has been for years in command of a battalion of militia, is exerting himself to have one raised in this district. We have no fear of the necessary number of volunteers being forthcoming, if the Government will do its part in supplying the necessary arms and uniforms. We may urge upon them the advisability of doing this with peculiar force just now, where so many disquieting rumors are in circulation. It is not only that rumors of expected trouble with the Indians are more rife, but that they must be considered in connection with the recent disturbance at Long Lake and File Hills. It is a pity that the public, whose lives and property are immediately at stake, can not obtain exact and satisfactory information touching the causes exciting and the means taken to suppress these disturbances, were it only to enable us to contradict authoritatively the present rather widely-accepted version. Rumor asserts that the rising at Long Lake, at any rate, was the result of a semi-starvation policy pursued by the worthy Indian commissioner. We sincerely trust that report exaggerates the truth in asserting that, while the Indians are compelled by a parental Government to live on their reserves, they have been in receipt of 2 ounces of pork and 4 of flour, each, per diem. We have failed to ascertain whether the weight is *Avoirdupois* or *Troy*—also, if amount was mailed every day from council's office."

Then we find a statement in the *Winnipeg Sun* of the 25th July, 1884, which is the only information we have had as to Colonel Houghton's tour of inspection—an extract which I will read :

"Colonel Houghton returned last night from a tour of inspection of arms in the Saskatchewan district. As to the corps organised throughout the Territories, they had ceased drilling some time ago, in consequence of the lapse of the three years. The Government in view of the unsettled state of affairs in the Saskatchewan district and the probability of an outbreak among the half-breeds at any time, deemed it wise to collect all the arms, as in the event of an uprising they might be used with great advantage against the whites."

Then I find, in the same paper, of the 15th November, 1884, an account which was given at Ottawa by Mr. White, the controller of the Mounted Police, in an interview as to the North-West. Mr. White said :

"Matters are moving along splendidly, despite the sensational reports that have been put in circulation to the contrary. With regard to the congregating of a large body of the Mounted Police at Prince Albert, he says that this was done to move the men about, and not from any anticipation of trouble in that section of the country. The policy of the Government, he says, has always been to keep the men on the move, that they may get a more thorough knowledge of the country."

Then he alludes to some things in connection with the disturbance, which I do not wish to introduce at present, and he goes on :

"The report that the strength of the Mounted Police is to be raised from 520 to 800 is without authority. He, however, believes that the force should be increased, as the duties of the police are greater than can be satisfactorily carried out by the present limited number of men. Nothing, however, could be done, until Parliament meets, and he was not prepared to say what recommendation the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs would make to the House in regard to strengthening the force. When he arrived at Regina he was surprised to see, in the *Fort MacLeod Gazette*, a report of the massacre of Major Crozier and the shooting of Riel. An effort will at once be made to discover the originator of the report, which Capt. White believes he can trace to the right party. The disappearance of the buffalo, he says, has proved a great assistance in inducing the Indians of the North-West to settle on their reserves. While the chase lasted, it was impossible to prevent them from roaming all over the country; and although the extinction of the buffalo has deprived them of what at one time seemed necessary to their existence, he believes that it will greatly assist the Government in bringing them sooner into a state of civilisation."

He does not say in which they may enjoy the franchise. Here you have various statements, which I think require

further explanation from the hon. gentleman as to the course he proposes to take, and the general policy upon which it is based, in addition to his extended reference to the cattle and herds in the southern part of the ranching district of the North-West Territory. On the 23rd of January, 1885, the local paper of Prince Albert made a statement in reference to these volunteers which is important to be read, also :

"Some time has elapsed since our attention was drawn to various remarks, in the papers below, upon the subject of the disbanding of our volunteer militia companies, and although we have never intended to sit down quietly under the unjust and offensive reflections cast upon our people in accounting for this fact, the presence of matter calling more immediately for notice has made our silence of longer duration than we desired. Perhaps, the most frequently repeated explanation of what has been called the disarming of our companies has been grounded upon the suspicion of loyalty while the least offensive one has been the inefficiency of our corps. Now, our answer to any remarks anent the disarming of our companies, is simply to be met by a statement of the fact, that as there were no men enrolled at the time the arms were removed from our settlement, we hardly see in what sense they can be said to have been disarmed. The fact of there being no men enlisted may require some explanation, and as the true one will serve to remove the so freely attributed stigma of disloyalty, we may briefly explain what resulted in this state of things. When the officer who came to the Territories, charged with the formation of these companies, reached Prince Albert, and called for volunteers, so far from finding any want of loyalty and zeal on the part of our settlers, he was offered men enough to form three companies instead of the two he proposed to enrol, and we safely say that had there been a moderate amount of interest taken in them by the authorities they would have been efficient to-day, and enabled the Government to dispense with a large proportion of the Mounted Police force, which they find necessary to keep ready against contingencies in our neighborhood at present. The officer who represented the Militia Department upon the occasion referred to assured the volunteers, in very graphic language, that as soon, after he returned to Winnipeg, as a message could be flashed along the wires to Ottawa, our uniforms would be ordered, and no unnecessary delay occur in forwarding them to us. On the faith of this the men began to drill, many of them driving in considerable distances, after their day's work was done, to get instruction. When the time arrived for annual drill the men cheerfully assembled, and although the circumstances of the country necessitated their camping and messing at headquarters, away from their homes during the course of instruction, and made it very hard for them to leave their work, no allowances could be obtained for themselves or horses. This they submitted to as long as their officers could hold out to them the slightest hope that the Department felt sufficient interest in them to furnish them with uniforms, but when year after year passed, and the companies were left without anything further than a rifle, sword, bayonet and belt, to distinguish them from civilians, it will be easily intelligible to any one in the slightest degree conversant with military matters, how utterly hopeless was the attempt to keep up any military enthusiasm, or *esprit de corps*. Instead, then, of attributing our inefficiency to want of loyalty, and offering it as an excuse for removing the Government arms from the settlement, we wish the people below to understand that nothing but neglect on the part of the Militia Department prevents the existence of efficient and loyal companies of volunteers in the Territories to-day. No doubt there is a good deal of dissatisfaction among people—some of it, undoubtedly, the result of ample provocation—but, as to loyalty at heart and readiness to do their duty when called upon, we believe that the people of the Territories, taken as a whole, compare very favorably with others, who have not had so much to discourage them in various ways."

I say that the hon. gentleman, in bringing forward, this very important proposal, a proposal which is of such great magnitude in its pecuniary aspect, a proposal which, as I pointed out, in the year 1882, the hon. gentleman agreed required to be considered in connection with the militia or citizen soldiery policy for the North-West—in bringing forward this proposal in view of recent events, and at a time when we are called upon to revise our policy with reference to the North-West, he ought to have brought it forward in a different tone and spirit, with a larger grasp of the subject, with a wider scope of observation, and as part of an entire plan which we could understand, instead of in the limited mode in which he has done it. I say it is not satisfactory. I say that having given us the view, in the year 1882, when he told us that 500 men were all that were then required, that a less number would be required as the country grew, that the time would come for diminishing that number, and, as he says, without reference to this outbreak, being now obliged to reverse that statement altogether, and to propose to more than double the force in three years, nearly quadruple it, compared to what it stood at up to 1882—the hon. gentleman ought to give us more reasons for