

provide for cavalry. The proper thing for the Government to do, instead of coming to us asking us to tax the country so many hundreds of thousands of dollars more in order to add to the standing army, would be to see that a militia force is organized in the North-West. There were volunteer companies in the North-West which the Government allowed to disband; and whose arms they called in not very long ago. What I think the Government should do is to place the North-West country, where trouble is much more likely to arise than in any other part of the country, in the same position as the older provinces, and to have a respectable volunteer force there. Notwithstanding what has been said by the hon. gentleman from DeLanaudière I think that this recent outbreak, instead of making us think less of our volunteer forces, is calculated to make us think a great deal more of them. The volunteers with a few weeks' training and experience were at least as efficient soldiers as the Mounted Police; and I did not notice that there was any distinction made between the volunteers and the regulars. I do not see that it was claimed that the regulars were any better in the field than the volunteers. The eastern provinces of Canada have paid immense sums of money since that North-West country was acquired for the purpose of building railroads through it, having it surveyed and making it fit and suitable for a population, and now that population have got in there I think it is unreasonable that we should be called upon to do the work which these people ought to do for themselves. There is a sufficient white population in the North-West now to protect themselves against the half-breeds and against the Indians too, and I think by far the better plan would be to allow those people to form volunteer corps, and to protect themselves and not tax us down here for the purpose of protecting them. It is quite right that we should do our share of it, but I think it is unreasonable that our taxation should be so very largely increased for the purpose of doing for those people what they can do for themselves, and what they are, as we learn, willing and anxious to do for themselves. Whether the Government are unduly suspicious of the loyalty of the whites out there I cannot say, but they

certainly, instead of encouraging these people to form volunteer corps, have discouraged them and taken their arms away from them; and it would be much better now while the warlike spirit is strong there that we should form volunteer corps in that country and let them bear the expense of protecting themselves.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—I do not think the hon. gentleman from De Salaberry (Mr. Trudel) intended to reflect on the Mounted Police in the way understood. I think he meant that they were the first persons who got into actual trouble, and if they had not fired there would have been no disturbance at all at Duck Lake.

HON. MR. TRUDEL—No, I did not specially allude to that point. I took care to explain that the remarks which I was making were meant to apply to the system and not to persons forming part of the Mounted Police. I added that I was ready to admit that personally they had done their duty, and I had nothing to say against any of them, but I said I believed that that kind of a force would be advantageously replaced by regular troops under the control of the Militia Department and under military discipline. I do not know much about it, but it seems to me that this Mounted Police force is something between the civil and the military; I suppose to a certain extent they are under military discipline, but still they are not under control of officers of a regular army. It is a body which does not present the advantage of an army or of a defence which might be afforded by a body of citizens such as the volunteers. I learn from parties in the North-West, at least I understood it this way—that if there had been no Mounted Police in that country there would have been no disaffection, because it was the presence of the police that created disaffection amongst the half-breeds, in the first instance. I do not mean to say that the Mounted Police did not do their duty—or that as a matter of fact they did not in many instances protect the citizens, and so on. I admit that it was a great satisfaction for the settlers to have somebody to rely upon, and I repeat again that what I said was against the system. I said,