

pose of protecting it. There are certain well known trails from the United States into Canada. They are followed by raiders, to a very considerable extent, and these people carry away cattle. The Dominion Government assume the protection of the frontier, so far as the Mounted Police can do it. These raids are the subject, I will not say of daily, but of weekly or monthly complaint to the American Government. We think we are more sinned against than sinning. The raids come principally from the other side; and without a mounted force, which the Province of Manitoba, I do not think, could well keep up, there is no real, practical protection. Cattle cannot be followed on foot and be recovered.

Mr. MACKENZIE. Have the raids not been wholly west of the boundary of Manitoba—in the Territories, not in the Province?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. We use the force to protect the international boundary line as well in the Province of Manitoba as west of the Province. There is a great deal of raiding into Manitoba proper, and a great many complaints arise on both sides. The House will see that it would be putting a strain on the resources of Manitoba to compel that Province to maintain a mounted constabulary for the purpose of preventing those raids. The hon. gentleman said that by my short statement yesterday it would appear that the main object of the police was to protect the herds. I dwelt on that, as it was a new phase, an increasing phase of duty on the part of the Mounted Police. Their duties are increasing daily by the altered and altering circumstances of the country. The police have a very difficult and very dangerous, as well as a delicate, series of duties to perform. Under the Indian treaties certain reserves were set apart for the Indians. It has been only by slow degrees that the Indians were got—they have not all been got there yet—to confine themselves to their reserves and endeavor to live by the agricultural products of the soil. The better Indians, the good Indians, to use a common expression—and I think the majority of them are of that class—have been induced to go to their reserves. It has, however, been accomplished by a series of mingled coaxings and threats. In every Indian band, as in every assembly of white men, there are good and bad people. The bad, the impatient, especially the indolent Indians, those who hang about the different settlements and stores, are very difficult to get upon the reserves. Sometimes indolent Indians will hang around an Indian station or a place where there are stores—sometimes round the Hudson Bay station—they will deliberately settle themselves down and declare that they will starve rather than leave. In such cases the policy has been to keep them on the lowest quantities of food which will sustain nature, in order to compel them to do what the majority of the band have already done—go on the reserves. That policy has been, on the whole, successful. But still there must be a continual, hourly pressure upon the Indians, to hold them upon their reserves. Besides this delicate duty, the duty also devolves upon the police of preventing the Indians breaking into stores, whether they belong to the Government or to the Hudson Bay Company. Whenever there is a small force, hundreds of Indians will come and will break into the stores where supplies are kept. The duty of the police is, therefore, a continuous one, and an increasing one, and the increase in the number of white settlers adds to the difficulty. A white man settling on his farm is apt to be very regardless of the sensibilities and the claims, just or unjust, of the Indians. Settlers, as a rule, take a hostile position against the Indians, just as it has been in the experience of the United States all along the western frontier. The duty of the police is not only to protect the white man against the Indian but the Indian against the white man. And,

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therefore, with this increasing duty and the increasing responsibility involved, the Government ask the House to consent to the increase of the force by 500 men. Recent events have shown that the force is overworked; that they are obliged to watch every reserve, in order to keep the Indians on the reserves. They are apt to get away; they are unwilling to endure restraint, and this can be prevented if there is a good agent on the reserve, and a sufficient force at hand to let them know pretty well that if they will not listen to reason they will be forced to carry out what they have agreed to do. Sometimes there have been outbreaks. These will break out occasionally, especially when the Indians find themselves, in a given locality, in a majority; then they are apt, too apt, to presume on that majority and insist, by threats of personal violence against the agent, on obtaining supplies from the Hudson Bay Company's or Indian stores, all of which are in the locality for the supply of the Indians under different treaties, and to prevent absolute starvation. In that work the Mounted Police are constantly employed, and the annoyance and worry is great. As I said yesterday, the work is so hard that applications are received from men to leave the force. A policeman must be under training for a time, for a year, certainly, before he is of much value. He will not understand his duties; he will not see the way in which the Indians are treated—the way that the system works; and we are very apt, at the end of the first year, to have a good many applications from policemen to retire. We compel them to pay a fee for that purpose; and we have twice, I think, increased the fee, for the purpose of preventing the men from going away just at the time that they become useful. But it must be obvious to the House and to common sense that the unwilling officer is not a good officer, and therefore it is important that the work should not be too harassing, too constant. I believe that no soldiers known to the British service, no constabulary known to the British service, either in Ireland or in India, as police, have as much work to do, individually, and collectively, as the force in the North-West; and it would be unwise economy to have that force deficient in number. The Bill to be founded upon the resolution is an empowering one, by which the Government are empowered, if they see it necessary, to increase the force to the extent of 1,000 men. Just now, or until lately, it was 520 men and some scouts, the force authorised by law. Now, with respect to the relations between the militia in the North-West and the police force, their duties are quite different. They have one common duty, of course, when called out. They have the common duty of protecting law and order, and in case of outbreak or rebellion, to put it down and keep order. But there the similarity ceases. The militia men, whether they be in one place or another, must be, to a great extent, if not altogether, a defensive force. They are drilled for that purpose. If there is a threatened danger at Prince Albert the militia there would defend Prince Albert, and so with the militia in other points.

Mr. MITCHELL. I wish hon. members would keep order. We cannot hear a word here.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I hope hon. gentlemen will keep quiet, as otherwise it is impossible for me to speak, except with great difficulty. As I was saying, in case of insurrection, of course the militia in the North-West and Manitoba will go to the field readily, as they have done, but they will go into the field to put down a pronounced insurrection, an outbreak, or to defend the locality, just in the same way as the militia in the eastern Provinces have gone there to put down the outbreak. They cannot always be in the field. It would, of course, be destructive of the very objects for which these people have gone to the North-West if they were continually employed as a permanent force, watching the protection of the coun-