

up to the North-West. He went from Port Arthur to the Rocky Mountains and back, and was some fourteen months in the service. Unfortunately, while in the service he lost the thumb of his right hand. He had been a widower before he left, and had lost all his property, leaving some four children in the care of his father-in-law, his intention being, if possible, to serve out his period of service in the police and then take up land in the North-West and establish himself and his family there. Unfortunately, however, he suffered the accident to which I have referred, and was compelled to obtain his release. That was in the year 1876. He made at the same time an application to be compensated for the loss he had sustained, and his petition came before the Secretary of State, who was the Minister then in charge of the Mounted Police. The Secretary of State, after considering the matter, wrote to the then member for the county I have the honour to represent, Mr. Drew, now Judge Drew, and to which county this man Laidlow belongs, to say that all the Government could allow him was his expenses home and one month's pay. Mr. Drew had pressed very strongly upon the Secretary of State that something should be done for this man, and this was the reply given. The poor man had to accept this, and returned home, and from that day to this he has not been able to get a single cent in addition. I think it is a very great hardship that the law should be in such a state that a man who engaged in the Mounted Police Force at its inception, and underwent all the hardships and privations to which those who first composed the force were subjected, should not receive some remuneration for the loss occasioned by his labours in that force. The loss of his thumb was due to the fact that after the doctor performed the operations in the first place, owing to the exposure which this man had to suffer without shelter from the inclemency of the weather, he had to undergo a second operation, and, finally, a third, and in that way he almost entirely lost the use of his right hand. The commanding officer under whom he served reports that he was a most efficient and attentive servant, discharging his duties faithfully and well, and that by the accident he met he was rendered unfit for work. Now, I hold that it is a cruel thing that this man who has suffered so serious a loss—a loss which has compelled him to be a burden on his friends ever since, his father-in-law having virtually to keep both him and his family—should be sent adrift with only one month's pay, and have had to struggle along some sixteen or seventeen years in that condition without getting a single farthing. Those who went to the North-West during the rebellion were dealt with very generously, and justly so, by this House and the country, and I think that somewhat similar treatment should be meted out to those who were the pioneers of the Mounted Police Force, and who suffered the privations the men had to undergo at the outset. It is nothing short of an outrage to force that man, who has to work out the balance of his life with only one hand, and that the left, to be a burden on his friends, through an accident suffered by him in his country's service. My principal object, in moving for these papers, is to give the hon. Minister an opportunity to reconsider the whole question from the beginning. If the hon. gentleman will refer to the officers under whom Mr. Laidlow served, he will find that Mr. Laidlow

was an efficient and faithful man, and it is with the hope that the Minister will be able to see his way to giving the man some remuneration, I make this motion. I believe an alteration has been made in the statute, and that those who now suffer loss in the service by accident are allowed a certain pension. I think it is right they should be, and I hope that, if the law stands in the way of this man receiving some consideration for the privation to which he has been subjected, even if the action of this House is necessary to reach an unfortunate case of this kind, the Minister of the Interior will ask for such legislation as will enable him to deal with the case, which bears on its face evidence of gross injustice and evidence that this man, who has submitted to this condition of things for seventeen years, should have some consideration. I have no personal interest in this matter except sympathy for the man and for his children. I know the circumstances of himself, his family and his friends, and I know the struggling efforts of himself and his relations to get along and support these children. I hope some step will be taken, and that the Minister of the Interior will ask power to enable him to reach this case in some way. I am sorry that, when this case came before Mr. Mackenzie's Government in 1876 or 1877, no settlement was made and nothing was done. I do not desire to reflect upon any person, but I very seriously regret that the law was in such a shape that nothing was done. Something should have been done, and, if the law establishing the Force barred the way, the Government should have got such legislation as would enable them to reach a case of this kind.

Mr. DEWDNEY. I do not think anyone can object to the hon. gentleman bringing this matter before the House at this time, although the accident he refers to occurred to this policeman some sixteen or seventeen years ago, nor do I think it is too late to do justice to the man if at that time an injustice was done to him. The accident which is referred to by the hon. member (Mr. McMullen) was, I believe, the loss of his thumb in connection with the coupling of a waggon or something of that kind; at least so it was reported. The matter was reported to the department here shortly after it occurred, and an investigation was ordered. As I understand, the doctor's report was that the injury to the thumb did not originate from the accident with the waggon, but from an old whitlow from which the man had been suffering for some time. However, an enquiry was made, and I think it went further than the Secretary of State. I think the Minister of Justice, the Hon. Mr. Blake, reported against any material amount being given to this man, and probably that resulted in his receiving his month's pay and his passage back to his home. At any rate, an investigation was held, and I think the matter was carefully considered by the gentleman who then had charge of the Mounted Police Force. I understand that the officer who was in charge of his company will be in Ottawa to-morrow or on Monday, and the sergeant-major, who is now an inspector in the Force, is available. From both of these officers we can get further information in regard to the case. If we find that the enquiry made before obtained incorrect information, if the commanding officer is aware of the facts of the case, and the sergeant-major, who was with him when the accident oc-