

mounted corps naturally would be more likely than any other to render the service which is required of an armed force.

Mr. BLAKE. I might suggest, Sir, as we are separating for a considerable time, that I think it would be satisfactory if such authentic information as the Government may receive, and as they think may be communicated without injury to the public interest, should be made accessible to us here to-morrow, and at an early period on succeeding days, until we meet again. I need hardly say that we are in great anxiety, and desire to know, as soon as we can, what the actual state of things is.

Mr. CARON. I have no doubt, from what the leader of the Government has stated, that he will be happy to communicate to the leader of the Opposition any telegrams he may receive—

Mr. BLAKE. I do not ask for myself, particularly.

Mr. CARON. They may be communicated to the leader, of the Opposition, and thus to all members on that side, and means will be taken to communicate the same information to our friends who sit behind us.

Mr. BOWELL. I may add that I have been informed since the House rose, that the distance between the two ends of the road which the men have to traverse is only some 40 or 45 miles, which is much more satisfactory than that the distance was 60 or 70 miles, as was intimated before.

Mr. WATSON. I would like to ask the Minister of Militia if he has made any arrangements to furnish arms and accoutrements for companies that are got up in the North-West. As he is well aware, applications have been made in years past for accoutrements for companies formed in that Province, and he has stated that these applications would receive consideration. Now that trouble has arisen in that country, I hope he will see the necessity of making some arrangement of this kind, for companies that may be formed.

Mr. CARON. The hon. gentleman will understand that the discretion of the Government must be exercised so far as giving arms to any troop that might be organised, but I can tell the hon. gentleman that the Government are perfectly alive to the necessities of the moment and that arms have been forwarded. We had already a large number of stands of arms at Winnipeg and we have supplemented them by forwarding a larger supply still; and any troop—any organisation approved by the Government, will be provided with arms and accoutrements.

Mr. WATSON. I understand that was the promise made to any of those wishing guns; but the arms have been kept stored in Winnipeg. I did not wish for a moment to convey the idea that anyone who applied for arms would receive them. I have been informed that, last summer, this same Louis Riel, who is now raising a disturbance in the North-West, sent an order for a stand of arms to a Winnipeg firm, to be shipped to Qu'Appelle, and that the Government intercepted them. If that was the case, they must have known at that time that there was danger to be apprehended from this man. If Portage la Prairie, and Brandon, and the other places that have repeatedly petitioned to have companies formed, had been granted their request, they would be of great service at present, instead of our having to withdraw volunteers from Toronto and Montreal.

Mr. CARON. I am not aware of any interception of arms having been made by the Government last summer, in the way the hon. gentleman states.

Mr. BLAKE. I trust that on Monday, without fail, we shall have on the Table of the House all the papers that can be laid on the Table with reference to past events, in connection with this matter, and any reports made in the

Mr. CARON.

course of last year by any of the officials of the Government bearing on the matter—Mr. Dewdney's report, the report of Colonel Houghton, who was charged, I believe, with the duty of picking up arms in the neighborhood of this disturbance, and the report of Mr. Stephenson, with reference to the settlers on the lands of colonisation companies. Now, I am not giving a list; I am only mentioning three or four reports which have been probably received; but I have no doubt that in the discharge of their duty in the North-West, the officers of the Government, and in the discharge of their duty at Ottawa, the Government, have had numerous communications of what was going on, and I think these papers should come before us without any delay.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 12:45 a. m., Saturday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 30th March, 1885.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

DISTURBANCE IN THE NORTH-WEST—INDEMNITY TO MEMBERS.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). I am about to submit a motion which I am sure will meet with the concurrence of the House, and will be accepted without the ordinary notice. I beg to move:

That the accountant be authorised to pay, on their departure from Ottawa, the full sessional indemnity to such members of the House as have volunteered for service in the North-West, and whose services have been accepted.

Mr. BLAKE. I have no doubt this motion would be unanimously adopted by the House, but I would call the hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that we cannot legally authorise the accountant to do this. We have for some time past adopted the proper course of inserting the amounts required in such cases in the estimates, and no doubt the Finance Minister will in the supplementary estimates bring down a sum sufficient to answer this amount.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The amount will be put in the estimates.

Mr. BLAKE. The sum is not voted. It is a statutory payment.

Mr. SPEAKER. Shall this motion be adopted?

Mr. BLAKE. I have already pointed out that we have no authority under the law to give this authority to the accountant. The sum paid is paid under a Statute passed by Parliament, and that Statute cannot be altered by a resolution. The result is that it must be by the estimates that this additional sum will be paid. For the last three years, I think, such sums have been put in the supplementary estimates. If the hon. gentleman inserts a recommendation it would be another thing. I have no doubt, as I said, that the principle of the motion will be unanimously accepted by the House, and that the House will invite the Finance Minister to insert the necessary sum.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I would suggest to my hon. friend, in order to meet the technical objection which has been raised, that his motion should run in this way:

That, in the opinion of this House, the full amount of indemnity to such members of the House as have volunteered for service in the North-West, and whose services have been accepted, should be paid upon their departure from Ottawa.