

it was found that the increased work thrown on the Mounted Police was such that the duties could not be performed. The men were broken up in small detachments scattered over many thousands of miles. They were watching the frontier, and with the perpetual increase of population there came perpetually more harassing duties which it was found to be too much for them to perform. When this force was first formed the country was comparatively unsettled, and the duties of the policemen were principally confined to watching the movements of the Indian tribes, and keeping the peace in the vicinity of the reserves. They performed that duty very efficiently, but still the duty was an easy one in comparison with what is required of them now, as there is a large mixed population and a long frontier for them to guard. Along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and between that line and the boundary, there is now a large and rapidly increasing population, with flocks and herds; there are men with considerable herds of cattle and horses as well. Along that frontier to the south of the line I am sorry to say that there is a regularly organised system by which people cross the line and steal horses especially, and everything which can walk except the bipeds themselves—the owners of the stock. Everything else is fair game to these raiders. I believe there is a very gratifying contrast between the law-abiding condition of our people north of the line and the lawlessness which prevails on the southern frontier, but still our own people are not altogether blameless. There are occasional complaints coming from the American Government of raids or forays across our own line to the United States, and the carrying off of cattle. In consequence, however, of the different system prevailing in Canada from that in the United States, the injury done to the inhabitants south of the border is not at all equal to what we suffer. From the fact that the force employed along the line in the United States is a military force they are altogether helpless, and can do no service unless called out specially in aid of the civil authorities. If cattle or horses are stolen and taken across the line into the United States, they must be followed by the owners, who must go to a magistrate—a western magistrate at that—some of whom have peculiar notions of *meum et tuum*, and who require to get their fees, and very considerable fees, and are obliged to have a regular trial, with an examination and information on oath, before a magistrate. The cattle in the meantime may disappear, may not be held; and the American military force, although exceedingly anxious to do their duty and to put down this state of things, may see this whole thing go on before their eyes, without being able to do anything unless they are called on by the magistracy to come in aid of the civil law. The consequence is that when there is a raid into Canada, getting back the property is a very difficult and expensive matter, and in a great many cases the pursuit has to be given up, because there is not a ready and efficient means such as we have in the Mounted Police. Our police having military organisation and being armed men, and every police officer being a magistrate, the moment there is any reasonable belief that a herd of cattle, or an animal or animals, come across the line, that have been taken away from their owners, they do not hesitate at once to act, and to act most efficiently; and they restore the stolen property to the owners without any litigation except by the officer in command of the detachment. The Americans have again and again acknowledged the superiority of our system. The force has been very efficient in that regard; but with the increase of population surging up to the line to the south of us, and with the increase of our herds of stock, both of cattle and horses, the duties of the police come to be very harassing, besides the normal duty of acting as policemen in keeping the peace in our por-

tions of the North-West. In consequence of the increasing demand for their services, some years ago the force was increased from 300 to 500; but it is found that it is now quite insufficient, and the police are to a considerable degree demoralised by being scattered in small parties. They are, therefore, not being able to keep up to that habit of drill and discipline which, if they were kept together in large numbers, they would have the advantage of. Besides, it has been found that the duties are so excessively severe that after a very short period of service the men wish to leave the force, that is, the strain on them, physically and otherwise, is so great that they desire to leave the force whenever they can do so legally. The applications for discharge, even though they have to pay a considerable sum of money in making them, are numerous. Their duties are very fatiguing and harassing; they have a great deal of night work in pursuing trails, and following horse thieves and such like, and the men become weary of the force. So much has this been the case that twice the Government have raised the purchase money of the discharge in order to prevent the force becoming altogether depleted by the men leaving just as soon as they become efficient—because they must acquire some experience before they are efficient. Of course, during the late events the purchase of discharge has been inoperative. That this additional force will be required I am satisfied, and we came to that conclusion without referring at all to the necessities which have arisen in our unhappy experience during the last two months. I move that you do now leave the Chair.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

#### After Recess.

Mr. BLAKE. It is a very gratifying indication of the growing greatness of the Dominion that the proposition now brought before our consideration should be treated as a minor matter. It is a proposition involving a permanent charge, if capitalised at the rate at which the hon. gentleman proposes by the other resolutions on the paper to raise money, equivalent to about \$20,000,000. That we should deal with that as one of the unconsidered trifles that should be disposed of among a number of others to-day is a very pleasing proof of our growing greatness and prosperity. Our mounted police at present consists of 500 men. It is proposed to increase the force by 570 men, including 20 supernumeraries and 50 recruits, being an increase of 114 per cent. The expenditure on the Mounted Police for this year is I think about \$127,000; the expenditure for the previous year was considerably larger; and I think we may fairly assume about \$450,000 to be the normal cost at present prices of 500 men, according to our experience up to to-day. The addition to our expenditure on that scale for the 570 men would amount to \$513,000, making a total proposed expenditure on the Mounted Police of very close on \$1,000,000 a year, the increase of \$513,000 at 4 per cent. being equivalent to about \$13,000,000 of capital. The hon. gentleman in the few remarks which he thought were all that were requisite in order to induce the favorable consideration of the House to this proposal, stated that it was not in any sense due to the outbreak in the North-West, and in proof of that statement he referred to the Speech from the Throne, which he said indicated that the proposal was then intended. Well, I think there is a reference to the Mounted Police in the Speech from the Throne, but I do not think it is extremely precise; I think it would be very difficult indeed to apprehend from that reference that it was proposed to more than double the strength of the force. The reference in the Speech is this:

"Several other measures of importance will be submitted to you; among them will be Bills to amend the Insurance Act of 1877, the Civil Service Act, and the law relating to contagious diseases among cattle, as well as measures for taking, at an early period, a census of the