

ed by the leaders on both sides of the House.

HON. MR. FLINT—I wish to bear my humble testimony to the worth of my late friend and colleague. I have known him about 20 years. We formed what I might consider an almost intimate friendship at the start of our acquaintance, and that friendship continued down almost to the day of his death. I saw him in the House some three or four days ago.

HON. MR. PLUMB—He was here on Wednesday.

HON. MR. FLINT—I spoke with him then and he seemed to be cheerful and in good health, and I little expected that he would have gone from amongst us so suddenly. Taking everything into consideration, his death is his gain, while it is our loss. I believe he was a man of sterling worth, I knew him to be a man of even temperament, always willing to do what he believed to be right, and I think we have lost a colleague whose place it will be hard to fill. I make these remarks because I feel deeply the loss of my old lamented friend, and my hope is that I shall meet him in a better world.

THE REBELLION IN THE NORTH-WEST.

MOTION.

The order of the day having been read,—

That the thanks of this House be tendered to Major-General Middleton, C.B., commanding the field force of the militia of Canada, and the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the militia and of the mounted police force recently engaged in the suppression of the rebellion in the North-West Territories, for their eminent services whilst engaged on that duty, and to express the Senate's appreciation of the valour and conduct of those who have perished, and their sympathy with their relatives and friends.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL said : The duty which I rise to discharge is a novel one. No one in this generation of Canadians has ever had occasion to propose a vote of thanks to an army in the field, and, although ours has not been a very large one, it has done effective service,

amply vindicating the motion which I now offer for the consideration of the House. In the midst of profound peace the Minister of Militia was called upon, without a day's warning to put into the field a considerable force of active militia. The news of the necessity of this step reached Ottawa on the 22nd of March. Under the vigorous administration of my hon. friend the Minister of Militia the Major-general commanding left for the scene of the disturbance on the following day. On the 24th orders were issued to several regiments to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to the North-West; on the 27th, the first detachment of troops left for Winnipeg, and they were followed up day by day by others until the force there had reached 4637 men, 473 horses and 8 guns. On the 3rd of April, the first detachment of troops reached Winnipeg, they had passed over 1305 miles of railway, and 80 or 90 miles of gaps, over which they had to march in the most inclement weather and over the worst possible roads. On the 24th of April, after another railway journey and nearly 200 miles of marching, they encountered the enemy at Fish Creek. The engagement at Batoche followed in a few days. The quickness with which this force was put into the field, a distance of 1500 or 1600 miles from headquarters; the thoroughness of its equipment; the quickness of its movements reflect the greatest credit on all concerned. The Major-General commanding had been selected by my hon. friend from amongst many in Her Majesty's army, well fitted to command her militia in this country. The wisdom of Mr. Caron's selection has been amply vindicated by the conduct of General Middleton in the field; by his wisdom in forming his plans, his skillfulness in conducting them to execution, and the great care which he manifested regarding the lives of those citizen soldiers entrusted to his care. In the earliest engagement at Fish Creek, the Major-General felt, I do not doubt, that it was necessary to set an example to the force under his command, composed, as it was, altogether of civilians who had never seen a shot fired in anger. His two aides-de-camp were wounded, and one had two horses shot under him, and the Major-General himself received a bullet through