

receive the same reward. They have been precluded from even the small recompense of receiving medals, with the exception of just a few who were in actual combat. I know that some of the home guards who never left their homes at all were presented with medals, but the police and the scouts who took an active part were left out in the cold. Whether the police were in action or not, I hold that every man of them who was in the field should at least receive a medal. Those medals would not cost much; I suppose not more than \$1.25 each, and that amount would never be felt by the Dominion of Canada. Another resolution of the Assembly says:

"We, your committee, find that several trails are made use of for carrying Her Majesty's mails, as well as being the main highways leading from one settlement to another. We find that certain streams, rivers and sloughs on those trails form strong impediments, not only to settlement, but interfere, to a great extent, in the conveyance of Her Majesty's mails, besides causing an increased expenditure of that very important item.

"The condition of some of those trails, at certain seasons of the year, has proven to be dangerous to life and property, and communication between the different settlements made most difficult and supplies not only rendered much dearer, but, in fact, almost impossible to obtain.

"Such a condition of affairs is a most important element in retarding settlement and the proper development of the Territories, and as the funds at the disposal of the Territorial Government are insufficient to make the necessary improvements, and we consider the Dominion Government especially interested in those trails, we would, therefore, urge that the Dominion Government appropriate a special sum to be expended on the following trails, viz.:—

"From Macleod to Calgary.

"From Calgary to Edmonton and Athabasca Landing.

"From Swift Current to Battleford.

"From Qu'Appelle to Prince Albert."

I call particular attention to the necessity for improving the trail between Macleod and Calgary. There are four rivers on that trail which during at least four months in the year are almost impossible to cross, and only one, at Elbow River, is bridged at the present time. I would urge on the members of the Cabinet, and especially on the Minister of Public Works, to see that an appropriation is put in the Estimates for the bridging of these streams. The work is most important to the people of that district, and it should not be neglected. The same remarks apply to the trail from Calgary to Edmonton, and the trail from Lethbridge to Macleod. This latter trail is only a short distance of thirty miles, and we have two of the largest rivers of the North-West to cross on it, which at all seasons of the year are unfordable. In the spring when the ice is soft and coming down, it is almost impossible to get across this river in any way. Not only are those rivers dangerous to property, but scarcely a spring passes that there are not lives lost there. Permit me to make some comments on the statements of the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) with regard to colonisation companies in the North-West, for I have some experience up there, and I know something about the condition of things in the Territories. Let me tell the hon. gentleman that the two colonisation companies in the district of Alberta have been a great benefit to the country, instead, as he would try to make out, an injury and a disadvantage. There are only two companies in operation at the present time in the North West, as the lands held by the others have been thrown open, but I can say that these two companies have been a boon to that section of the country. The hon. gentleman has spoken of the expenses incurred in connection with the administration of affairs in the North-West and it is a subject which he has been constantly growling about in this House. It has got to be a chestnut with the hon. member and I have heard him singing the same old song for the last three years. If we ask for the expenditure of public money up there it is because we need it to develop our great country, and whatever is expended on us now is in a sense only borrowed money, for in a few years we will be able to pay it back to the Dominion Treasury one hundred fold. The hon. member has

Mr. DAVIS (Alberta).

spoken of the high salaries paid to Dominion land agents. They get the small sum of \$1,200 a year each and when a man has to board himself out of that in the Territories it cannot be considered in any sense a high salary. Why, we have to pay a cowboy \$600 a year and board him into the bargain, and if he is a first class man we have to pay him \$1,800 a year and board him too. Talk about \$1,200 a year to a Dominion land agent who must be an educated and intelligent man, who knows the country, when we have to pay sometimes nearly double that to a good cowboy. I should say that the Government ought raise the salaries of the land agents to \$1,500 a year and then it would look more like decent pay. The hon. gentleman has also spoken of the office expenses of those registry offices. What does he want to do with them? Does he want to close them all up and let them take care of themselves? I suppose that would be his remedy and that would be his policy to bring population and settlers into the North-West Territories. There is another matter to which I wish to call the attention of hon. gentlemen opposite who are constantly complaining in this House about the expense of feeding the Indians. I have lived a good while in the North-West and I know more about the Indians than some of the hon. gentlemen who pretend to dictate to us the way in which we should treat them. Let me tell those members that they will find it a great deal cheaper to feed the small number of Indians that we are feeding at the present time than to have constantly a row on our hands. It is a good deal easier to feed the Indians than to fight them, a fact which they have learned in the United States, and of which they have bitter experience. I shall not take up the time of this House further on this question. There are other matters effecting the interests of the North-West which will be brought to the attention of Parliament and the members interested in that district will probably have an opportunity of referring to them again.

Mr. DEWDNEY. I do not propose to occupy the time of the House with any lengthened remarks on this subject to-night, because I think several opportunities will be afforded before the close of the Session for dealing with almost every subject touched on by hon. gentlemen to-day. I think, by this time the House will have found out that there is more than one "funnel" through which we can obtain very valuable and interesting information, with regard to North-West matters. I am sure, we feel very much indebted to the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) for bringing up these questions, and not only making hon. gentlemen acquainted with the resolutions passed by the Legislative Assembly last autumn, but affording an opportunity for an expression of views by hon. gentlemen who are interested in our western country, and giving myself and the Government an opportunity for giving a greater and more intelligent consideration to the several matters included in his resolution. The hon. gentleman went over these resolutions *seriatim*; but I do not think an extended reply will be expected from me, because hon. gentlemen are aware, that all these memorials are now under the consideration of the Government, and the Government's reply to them, will in a very short time be forwarded to the Lieutenant Governor for the information of his Legislative Assembly. The hon. gentleman was kind enough, in connection with the resolution which he considered of great importance, the prohibition resolution, to say, that he sympathised with me during the years that the permit system was placed under my control. All I can say in reference to that is that I did not find the duty a very pleasant one, and I sympathise with my successor who is now in my shoes in dealing with it. I shall only be too glad to see some change made in that respect. As I said to my constituents last autumn when addressing them, I do not care much what