

been settled by the previous government, not hastily, but after due consideration. I understand that the reason which actuated the government was that the police were employed for duty in the Northwest, whereas the militia had to leave their usual vocations to perform the onerous duty of defending the country.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. I have always understood that to be the reason, but the same reason would hold good with reference to the men of the permanent militia force, who were held to go anywhere that their duties might call them. I never could see why the Mounted Police were denied the scrip and the permanent force given it. The police are a lot of deserving men who, in their faithful and judicious services in preserving law and order, saved the country many times more than the cost of a few hundreds or thousands of acres of land that it would be necessary to give them in scrip. I know that in some cases it would be a great boon to the families of old policemen to be given that scrip in order that they might take up land and settle on it. Will the First Minister look into the matter?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I am sorry to say that I do not think it will be at all advisable to re-open that question, which was considered with great care by the previous administration immediately after the close of the rebellion.

Mr. HERRON. I am sorry that the government take the stand that the question should not be reconsidered. I can back up what has been said by the hon. member for Victoria and Haliburton (Mr. Sam. Hughes) with reference to these men. Many of them are settlers in the country, and they think they are entitled to something in the way of compensation for their services in the rebellion. I can see no reason why they are not as much entitled to scrip as the men who served in the militia, or the permanent force or the volunteer force. I hope the government will not take a decided stand against giving the matter their further consideration. I would like to say a word with reference to the service the Mounted Police are rendering in the southern country. It is not new for us to realize that that country is thoroughly well guarded by the Mounted Police, perhaps better than any other country similarly situated has ever been. I would like to draw the attention of the government to some raids that occurred along the boundary line about three years ago, when there was considerable horse-stealing done. The Mounted Police did all they could in the matter, but I think something should be done along the lines of secret service, and I would like to have an opportunity of making some private suggestions to the Prime Minister, who, I understand, is at the head of that department.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I shall be very happy to receive suggestions from my hon. friend in reference to that matter.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. I understood the right hon. First Minister to say that whilst he appreciated the fact that the Northwest Mounted Police, who assisted in the Northwest rebellion, were perhaps entitled to some recognition along with the members of the militia, that recognition was prevented by the fact that they enlisted for service in that country. If there is any great anxiety on the part of the government to show recognition to these men, there are a large number of them who, though they enlisted for service in that country, assisted the militia in South Africa, and a demand has been made by these men that they should be treated by this government in the same way as other volunteers who went to South Africa. There are a number of other men in the Northwest who enlisted for service in South Africa and who have received no recognition from this government, because this government own the land, whereas those who went from the province of British Columbia and the province of Ontario have received recognition at the hands of the provincial governments. It is a matter of considerable wonderment to these men why such efforts are put forth to bring certain classes of settlers into the country when they are not given any land and are not allowed to buy an acre of land, although they assisted in the defence of the empire in South Africa.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. There is no connection between the two questions to which my hon. friend refers. The question of giving land to those who served in South Africa has been brought to the attention of the government. But these matters grow. We have also received applications on behalf of those who served in the Fenian raids. Some of these went to the front and endured hardships, while others were not called on for any special duty, so that the work of discriminating is a matter of some nicety. Whether scrip should be given to all or whether there should be a scale of concessions is a question that must be considered before the government can come to any conclusion.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. When I drew the attention of the government to this matter on two or three former occasions, the right hon. the First Minister pointed out that the province of Ontario was giving to her sons who fought grants of land, and added that the time would come when the Northwest Territories would be erected into provinces, and these could then recognize their sons. As the right hon. gentleman has not seen fit to give the new provinces the control of their lands, his former argument falls to the ground. I think, therefore, that my