

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. If the hon. gentleman wants an answer, I may say that it is because his battalion is, I believe, the oldest battalion of the force amongst the French Canadians.

Mr. AMYOT. No, there are many older. On the 30th April, I received this telegram:

"I offer you congratulations on the promptness with which you and your battalion have answered the call and prepared your departure for the North-West.

"A. P. CARON."

And then I received any amount of congratulatory telegrams until we reached Winnipeg. There we were put in a swamp. There were many buildings belonging to the Government in which there was nothing at all, but no, we were bound to be put in swamps. Immense and heavy rains came on. I lost two men through sickness, most probably arising from the dampness, and from the cold they had taken in the swamps. Four days, five and six days elapsed, while we were in Winnipeg. No one minded us at all, and I heard in the streets of Winnipeg: "What are these French Canadians doing here?" And I wired the Minister to get us away by all possible means; and then I found that General Middleton had forgotten us at Winnipeg, and I obtained at last the order to go to Swift Current. It was only by sending telegram after telegram that I could be remembered and be sent forward. When I arrived at Swift Current, I met with very efficient and intelligent officers. We went round the prairie together, and we found that the war was being conducted in a most extraordinary fashion. I do not pretend, myself, to be a man of experience, but I took the ideas of others, and amongst them the ideas of an old general who was there, a soldier who had often been under fire. Those who have not been in the North-West cannot form an exact idea of the circumstances. When we speak of provisions it is not like going to your own cupboard and taking out provisions. When you have to provide food for thousands of men, and to send it for hundreds of miles through the prairie, it is a matter that requires a great deal of careful attention. One day a party of General Middleton's teamsters were attacked on the prairie by a few men and made prisoners, and all their provisions were captured; and if Riel and Dumont had been cruel men they might have killed any number of those teamsters, they might have starved the army of the North, they might have done any amount of harm in that way. After that trip the officers with whom I spoke—and this has been proven under oath in a certain case—urged me to wire to the Minister of Militia and inform him how matters were going on. They said that the expense would be enormous, that the danger would be enormous, and that the war was badly conducted. The Indians and the half-breeds were, for the most part, mounted men, and to send a corps of infantry after them in the open prairie was, in their view, as well as in mine, a very absurd thing. We could not tell how many miles the infantry would have to go to reach the mounted rebels; we could not foresee how many months the war would last. I was urged to wire the Minister of Militia that the war was being badly carried on, and that to meet mounted men mounted men were required. The Canadian army, being already there, was to be employed there, but how? Could you employ that body more usefully than by watching the forts and provisions, when one fort had already been plundered? Provisions were scattered over the prairie for hundreds of miles, and were constantly exposed to the enemy. The hon. gentleman laughs. Did he go there? Did he go further than Winnipeg? Did he go to war? Has he a very long sword with his title? That was not my opinion only. There were many officers who shared my opinion. The hon. gentleman wrote me a letter in which he stated:

"I could not find a moment to answer you before to-day. Rest assured that you need not feel anxious. When you write to me privately, I keep your letters to myself alone; it is only when I have to obtain information from the Departments that I communicate the subjects treated in your letters."

This is dated November, 1882. The hon. gentleman says: But you yourself have asked by motion that I should produce those papers. The hon. gentleman is mistaken again. He does not say what is correct. There has never been a single paper produced. Does the hon. gentleman understand what I say?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I do.

Mr. AMYOT. When he stated here a moment ago that he had produced the papers, he said what was not correct. I never made a motion. I put the motion on the paper once, and when the notice was called I was just entering the Chamber, but the word "dropped" had been spoken. I put the motion again on the paper, but it was then too late to be moved that Session. So when the hon. gentleman says that he produced these papers at my request, he says what is not correct, as his answer yesterday was not correct, as his interpretation of my telegrams was not correct, as all he says about them was not correct. When the hon. gentleman appeals to the records of this House, there I have him, and there I say: You are wrong. Can he give me the number of that report? Where is it? When was my motion made? One day when there was a question about Riel, this incident was brought in suddenly when I was not prepared to answer with the papers. But to-day I am going to put matters right. Well, following the advice of those old officers, I wired to the Minister what we thought of the way in which the war was being conducted, that mounted men should follow mounted men, and that the best use to which we could put the volunteers was to watch the provisions and the forts. A fort containing 100 people and situated hundreds of miles from any other fort, was in a dangerous position, and to watch and protect convoys of provisions passing through hundreds of miles of prairie, is more dangerous than to sit in one's office, and to study one's lesson, preparing insults to those who work, and to consult one's officers of a Department. Well the hon. gentleman answered me on the 23rd of April:

"Delighted to hear how well you are getting on."

Then he wired to me very often. In answer to that telegram about provisions, concerning which he has made so much noise and so many accusations against me, he telegraphed me:

"Telegram received. You will have heard the news which answers part of your telegram. You are doing splendidly."

"You are doing splendidly." Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman was sincere then, he is not sincere to-day, and *vice versa*. Certainly there has been a moment in his life when he was not sincere. If I was doing wrong why did he not warn me immediately to do better? But no; "You are doing splendidly." That is his answer. On the 20th April, 1885, he wrote me as follows:—

"Your letter received. I thank you for it, and the good news you give me of your battalion affords me great pleasure. I have implicit confidence in you and in your command. Write me as often as you can and give me the news. I take note of what you say of other matters in your letters."

We went to Calgary. I found it in a great state of excitement. I secured a meeting of the priests, of the mayor, and of the officer whom General Strange had placed in command of the local guard. They decided that I should wire the Minister of Militia the same thing that I had wired him from Swift Current, conveying to him the same ideas and asking him, moreover, to order some scouts to be sent over the country around Calgary. To that I received an answer, and in that answer I am thanked for the information, and he adds: