

Vic., chap. 73, because, although they were not in actual service, in actual conflict with the enemy, they were members of the enrolled volunteer force, and were actively engaged in bearing arms in the suppression of the rebellion. If it is contended that the company was a home guard within the meaning of the Act, 49 Vic., chap. 29, that Act is not a contracting but an enlarging Act, and is not intended to restrict or narrow the provisions of the former Act. The expressed intention, as may be seen by section 1, is to widen the scope of the original Act by extending its provisions to certain classes who would otherwise be excluded, as, for instance, the members of an irregular force. Now, if we turn to 49 Vic. we find in sub-section A, in clause 1:

"Every officer, non-commissioned officer and man of any irregular force raised by authority and actively engaged in bearing arms in the suppression of the said outbreak, other than as a home guard for the protection of property at or near their place of residence."

That clearly is intended to extend the provisions of the first Act and not to narrow them. But the Regina volunteer force is not within that section, by reason of the fact of having been duly organised and enrolled under the provisions of the Militia Act; it is not an irregular force, and the sub-section only excludes an irregular force serving as home guard. I call the attention of the House to the Birtle company. That company is found mentioned in the *Canada Gazette* of April 11. It is also found again in the *Canada Gazette* of September 18, side by side with the Regina company. But that company, the Birtle company, received the bounty, while the Regina company has not been able to obtain it. The last letter that passed between the Department and Col. Scott was a letter from the Deputy Minister, saying that bounty would not be given. Not only did the Birtle company get bounty, but—and this is the reason I have moved for these returns—it will be found that persons who did not really belong to the regular Militia got bounty, as, for instance, clerks and others engaged in the transport service. Under these circumstances I would urge on the Minister of Militia the necessity of dealing with this question in a comprehensive manner. The expense could not be much, and it is a very undesirable thing that for the sake of a small economy there should exist among any class of our population a sense of injustice.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. The hon. gentleman has brought before the notice of the House, in the most complete manner possible, the question of how the scrip was distributed to those who took part in the suppression of the North-West troubles. The action of the Department of Militia is altogether controlled by the Acts on the Statute-book, which the hon. gentleman has correctly quoted. The first Act which was passed authorised the Minister of Militia to recommend the issue of scrip to members of the regularly enlisted militia force of Canada. By a subsequent Act, 49 Vic., chap. 29, this was extended, and to that list of those who were entitled to scrip were added others who in the first Act had not been provided for, in so far as related to receiving the scrip which was accorded to the regularly enlisted militia force. I am quite prepared to bring down, if the hon. gentleman requires it, and to give to the House and the hon. gentleman all possible information in connection with that question. But I must draw the hon. gentleman's attention to this fact, that a return of those who under the first Act were recommended to receive scrip would be a very extensive one, and one which would take a great deal of time in preparing. I do not see how, even if such a return were brought down, it would be of any value in conveying any more information than the Act itself conveys, coupled with a list of the regularly enlisted militia who took part in the suppression of the trouble. I think that if the hon. gentleman were to alter the motion so as to ask for a return of those outside of the regularly enlisted militia who were recommended to receive scrip, then all the information which the hon. gentleman requires could be conveyed without much expense

or much loss of time. Of course it is quite impossible for the Department of Militia to travel outside of the Act under which the recommendation for scrip was granted. If it were considered that others should receive that consideration which was accorded to the regular militia force, then the law would have to be altered to cover those exceptional cases to which the hon. gentleman has drawn attention. Outside of the regularly enlisted militia we could not consider the claims of purely home guards, for the simple reason that the Minister of Militia was not authorised, under the Acts passed by Parliament, to consider such claims. However, if the hon. gentleman considers that the motion as proposed should be adopted, I will bring the return down as rapidly as possible, but I would ask him to consider whether it would not be better to amend the motion in the sense I have indicated, so that the names of those outside of regularly enlisted militia who were recommended for scrip should alone be brought down. If this course were followed all the information required would be conveyed without much labor and loss of time, and the hon. gentleman's object would be accomplished.

Mr. DAVIN. I think the suggestion of the hon. Minister is a good one, and will meet the point at which I want to arrive.

Mr. SPROULE. While this subject is under consideration I should like to say a word with respect to the Macdonald Scouts of Moose Jaw. Application was made last year and the previous year, or early and late last year, for the same recompense to be made them as had been made the regular militia. I understand the law would not allow those scouts to obtain that compensation, and to meet their case the law was amended last year. It was, however, subsequently found that it would still not meet their case, and they are now applicants for compensation. I hope, if any change is made in the law, it will be such as will enable those parties to be compensated equally with the active militia. They were engaged as police scouts, travelling all over the country and performing very important duties—duties almost as dangerous as those performed by the troops at Batoche, and those scouts are, therefore, entitled to the same consideration.

Mr. WELDON (St. John). Last year I brought up a matter relating to volunteers who were called out and went to great expense in that connection. I refer to the volunteers of St. Andrew's and St. John. As some hon. gentlemen have spoken on behalf of some of the battalions in the west, I hope the Minister of Militia will reconsider his decision of last Session with regard to the cases of those men who, although they were not actually engaged in the conflict, or did not proceed very far on the way, were put to great expense and privation in preparing to do their duty.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved:

That the report of the committee appointed to strike the Select Standing Committees, be adopted.

He said: I did not happen to be in the House when the motions were put, and I desire to make a few changes in the composition of these committees. By a mistake of the clerk the name of my hon. friend from Victoria, British Columbia (Mr. Shakespeare), was omitted altogether, whereas on the list as prepared his name was on several of the committees. I propose that Mr. Shakespeare shall replace Mr. Ives on the Public Accounts Committee; that the name of Mr. McDougall (Cape Breton) shall be placed on the Committee of Standing Orders; that of Mr. Montplaisir on the Committee on Railways, Canals and Tele-