

Hon. Mr. VAIL said the reduction was made on the recommendation of the Commanding Officer, having regard to the length of service.

Mr. MASSON said the fact that it had not been necessary to fire even a blank cartridge proved the peaceful character of the people, but it did not say much for the Administration of the Militia which thus neglected the training of the force.

Mr. TROW thought the member for Terrebonne must be mistaken with regard to the Manitoba force. He was in that Province some five weeks, and had had opportunities of seeing the force drill. He believed they were under the strictest discipline, and a more efficient officer than Col. SMITH could not be found. He approved of the reduction in the force, and did not see any necessity for any force there at all.

Mr. BUNSTER said this large expenditure for the Manitoba force was another evidence of the necessity of the Pacific Railway, as it would facilitate communication with that Province.—Item passed.

Under the head of Ocean and River Service, items 110 and 111 were passed without discussion.

On the item \$12,000 for Steam Communication, Lake Superior,

Mr. WRIGHT (Pontiac) asked whether any arrangement had been made by the Government to construct a canal on the Canadian shore to connect Lakes Huron and Superior.

Hon. Mr. CARTWRIGHT replied that nothing had been done except that surveys had been made.—The item passed.

Item 113 passed without discussion.

On item \$12,500, Steam Communication on Lake Huron,

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE, in reply to Mr. PLUMB, said there were two lines subsidized, one running from Collingwood and the other from Sarnia.

Mr. LANDERKIN complained that the steamers of the Collingwood line did not call at Owen Sound last summer on the way back.

Hon. D. A. MACDONALD said the reason was that Owen Sound was so out of the way that the steamers could not call there without lying over at Collingwood till Monday.

Mr. PLUMB said he had noticed that the mouth of French River was spoken of as an objective point in connection with

the Pacific Railroad. He wished to know if this subsidy included an appropriation for a prospective mail service to that point.

Hon. D. A. MACDONALD said a small vessel would be employed to run to the mouth of French River, to carry mails and supplies in connection with the railroad survey.

Mr. LANDERKIN said in regard to the steamers not calling at Owen Sound on their return, that if any delay were caused by their touching at that town, the mails could be forwarded by the Toronto, Grey & Bruce Railroad, so that no time need be lost.—The item passed.

Item 115 passed without discussion.

On the item \$54,000 for Steam Service between San Francisco and Victoria,

Mr. BUNSTER suggested that a larger and faster steamer than the one at present used should be employed, and that it should call at Nanaimo.

Hon. D. A. MACDONALD said he had ordered tenders to be published calling for a steamship of no less than 1,000 tons, in order to ascertain whether the service could, at a reasonable rate, be made weekly, instead of semi-monthly. If it was to the advantage of the country that the steamers should go to Nanaimo, they could surely go there without instructions from the Government.

Mr. BUNSTER said the contract required the boat to stay two days at Victoria, and there was no time to call at Nanaimo. The trip to San Francisco, which now occupied four days, should be made in two.

Mr. THOMPSON (Cariboo) said there was now a project afoot to organize a steamship company to carry these mails. There was no question, faster boats should be employed, though the company carrying the mails had done their duty.—The item passed.

Mr. BROUSE expressed regret that the Government had discontinued the tug service on the St. Lawrence, between Kingston and Montreal. It would give dissatisfaction to a large number of vessel owners on the St. Lawrence, and he trusted the Government would see the necessity of continuing the service, which had been of great advantage to those residing along the river.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said this was a part of the Liberal policy. There was no reason why the Government should aid