

Item 20 was concurred in without discussion.

On item 21, \$15,000, circuit allowances, British Columbia,

Hon. Mr. CARTWRIGHT explained, in answer to a question, that the Minister of Justice did not consider the former vote of \$10,000 sufficient for the service.

Items 22 and 23 were concurred in without discussion.

On item 24, \$185,000, Manitoba Mounted Police,

Hon. Mr. TUPPER asked whether it was in contemplation to make alteration in the constitution of that body. The experiment of the past year—for it was a mere experiment—would have satisfied the Government, whether it was proper or otherwise, to incorporate the Mounted Police with the regular force in Manitoba. He had been following as closely as possible the statements from the best sources at the command of gentlemen on his side, that was to say the press, and they were to the effect that the system provided by the Government and sanctioned by the House for the administration of the Mounted Police had been attended with a good many serious difficulties, that the powers possessed by the officers had been insufficient to preserve that degree of subordination and harmony which was necessary to prevent desertions; and the question must force itself upon the attention of the Government as to how far it would be advisable to change the organization of that force. It appeared to him that it would be a very great advantage to incorporate it with the standing force in that Province, the result of which would be that the Government would have at their command for whatever purpose it might be required, a compact body which could be detailed to the different parts of the country when their services were necessary. He thought it was unfortunate to have two forces in the same Province organized upon entirely different systems, and considered they would be more effective for every purpose if consolidated. He was very happy to believe that the prospect in the North-West was such that a very large standing force would soon become quite unnecessary, but under the present circumstances he believed neither the House nor the country would be disposed to dispense with the services of that force, and therefore

Hon. Mr. Cartwright.

he made the suggestion that the Government should consider the advantage of incorporating the two bodies.

Hon. Mr. FOURNIER stated that it was not the intention of the Government to incorporate the mounted police with the militia force. It had been stated in the House that the mounted police had been a failure. On the contrary it had been an entire success, certainly beyond the expectations that might fairly be formed of it. It was true there had been difficulties, but they were entirely due to the novelty of the organization, and the inexperience of the men. He was glad that the hon. gentleman had given him an opportunity of denying the statement that there had been many desertions. The total number of the force was in the neighborhood of 250, and the desertions which took place were only some sixteen. Those who had deserted were enlisted in the force from the beginning, and it was calculated that a great many of those who had already been in the service would leave it, and in order to meet that contingency a number of men were engaged before the expedition started to be in readiness to fill up vacant places. The force was a much superior one to that of the United States, and the good effects of it had not been confined to Manitoba, but had extended to the American territory bordering. He hoped that a report on the subject would be laid before the House shortly when the beneficial results of the force in every respect, and the part it contributed towards maintaining peace and security all over the territory would be shown to be greater than could have fairly been anticipated.

Mr. MASSON said his remark was not that he was in a position to state that the force was not a success, but that it was commonly reported in Manitoba and in the press generally that such was the case. The hon. gentleman, by stating there were 36 desertions, out of a force of 246 men, gave some confirmation of that report. He (Mr. MASSON) found no fault with the hon. gentleman for this; he merely drew the attention of the Government to the fact, and suggested that the force should be included in the military organization of the country. The officers should have more command over the men, and should be empowered to punish for desertion and refusal to obey orders, with something