

England, and it was thought advisable to leave it to be settled afterwards.

THE LAST ENGLISH LOAN.

Mr. CHARLTON asked, What commission has been paid to the agents on the last loan of £4,000,000 effected in London? What "allowances" have been made to parties tendering for said loan?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. These particulars have not yet reached us, but I suppose they will reach us in a day or two.

THE ONTARIO BOUNDARIES.

Mr. MILLS. When does the First Minister propose to submit to Parliament the Address inviting Imperial legislation on the subject of the boundaries of Ontario?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I do not know that we are going to submit an Address to ask the Imperial Legislature to deal with it. I said the House would deal with the subject, and that it would be brought before the House during the present Session.

PROTESTANT VOLUNTEERS IN THE 65TH BATTALION.

Mr. CHARLTON. I wish to call attention to a paragraph or statement made with reference to the treatment of Protestant volunteers in the North-West. I suppose our laws guarantee freedom of conscience and worship to our volunteers as well as to other citizens. I find a statement copied from the *Edmonton Bulletin*, of 13th June, to the following effect:—

"On Sunday morning last, about nine o'clock, Capt. Des Troismais ordered No. 2 Company of the 65th Battalion to fall in for church parade, it being the intention to have the company parade to St. Albert to take part in the services of Procession Sunday on Corpus Christi Day. One of the privates, named Cawthorne, a Protestant, refused to fall in, saying that he had promised the minister to attend the Presbyterian Church on that day. The captain demanded what right he had to promise to attend any church without consulting him, and after some words, ordered him into the guard room. Six others also refused to fall in. Col. Ouimet was then sent for, and he ordered the men to fall in. Private Conway said he would fall in, but would not go to church, and used some disrespectful language. He was sent to the guardroom. The remaining five fell in and the colonel told off three for extra guard duty, and ordered the remaining two, on their still refusing to go, to the guardroom, with Conway and Cawthorne. On Monday the four who had been sent to the guard room were brought up for trial before the colonel. Conway was not allowed to speak in his own behalf, and was sent to the bastion for eight days on bread and water. The remaining three were dismissed."

I see that, in the regulations and orders for the militia of Canada for 1883, it is provided as follows:—

"268. In assembling troops for public worship in the field, care is to be taken that they are not brought together in numbers greater than the voice will reach. Soldiers attending divine service are to wear their side arms.

"269. Every man is to be at full liberty to attend the worship of Almighty God according to the forms prescribed by his own religion, when military duty does not interfere.

"270. Men of any religious denomination, if their number shall exceed 20, are to be regularly marched to and from their own places of public worship under the command of an officer, or in charge of a sergeant, if not exceeding that number. The officer or sergeant is to remain with them during the performance of the service."

If this report contained in the *Edmonton Bulletin* is correct, a gross violation of the rights of conscience on the part of these men has been perpetrated. I ask whether the Government have any information in reference to the matter, and, in the event of this statement proving true, what steps they would propose to take?

Mr. CARON. The Department have had no information whatever about the facts which the hon. gentleman has just been submitting to the House. My attention was drawn to it, I believe yesterday, by the leader of the Government. I

Mr. CARON.

think the hon. gentleman had mentioned the fact to him. I immediately telegraphed to get all the information from Col. Ouimet and the officers at headquarters, in relation to the case. Until I receive that, it is impossible for me to express my opinion. The regulations are perfectly clear, and the rules are quite sufficient to deal with any case of that kind. As the hon. gentleman has very properly said, every man is allowed to follow the worship and go to the church he belongs to; but until I get the information which I have asked for, it is impossible for me to say anything more about it.

Mr. MACKENZIE. I hope the hon gentleman has communicated by telegraph?

Mr. CARON. I have.

Mr. MACKENZIE. And that the persons who are suffering punishment for the rights of conscience have been immediately released?

Mr. CARON. I am not sure that they are suffering punishment for the rights of conscience until I hear more about it.

Mr. MACKENZIE. When was the message sent?

Mr. CARON. Yesterday, as soon as I heard it.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. My hon. friend from North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) told me he was going to call attention to this matter. Of course, if this has been done, it is an outrage. That question, it so happens, was settled long ago in Canada, when the 79th Regiment came to Montreal. They were ordered to march to church, The chaplain was a member of the Church of England, as was usual in those days. The men grumbled a good deal, but they marched to church—under protest, however—and on the way the band played a tune. That was the last time that rule was enforced.

Mr. BLAKE. I may just call the attention of the Government to another statement that I have seen in the newspapers of this city. It is that one of the prelates in the North-West who was desirous of officiating in religious services on behalf of the bulk of the prisoners, was refused the privilege—I think it was Bishop Grandin himself. I think some enquiry ought to be made on that subject. Though these persons are accused, I do not see why they should be denied the consolations of religion.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I am personally in some degree responsible for that. I was aware that there was going to be a large number of prisoners coming down to Regina, and that the means of keeping them secure were very inefficient, so I sent a short telegram—I may say in cipher—to the Lieutenant Governor, stating that no person should be allowed to see them just now. I never thought it would deprive them of any religious instruction. The moment that was mentioned, a telegram was sent, of course, that it was not in any way to interfere with the right to see their own clergymen.

Mr. DESJARDINS. Since there is a general disposition to regulate these affairs in the North-West, perhaps it might be well to call the attention of the Minister to some correspondence and reports published in the *Mail* and in the *Manitoba* and other papers, regarding the treatment of the natives by the soldiers after the several engagements. I have here a correspondence from the *Mail*, dated 19th June, and it is translated into French, I will read it as I find it:

"What a distressing picture is offered by these poor families, cruelly plundered and stripped by the volunteers! The soldiers only came out of the houses of the half-breeds after having broken whatever they could not carry away; stoves, clocks, bedsteads, tables, etc., were all mercilessly destroyed by these raving maniacs. Poor mothers of families, who had only one bed and one blanket, were brutally deprived of these articles. The soldiers, being unable to carry off the bed, took hold of the blanket, and splitting with their knives the ticking, which contained the feathers, enjoyed the barbarous sport of throwing them to the wind.