

may not now speak French, and although they may have changed their names, as, for example, in the case of those named Poirier, who now call themselves Perry; those named Leblanc, who now call themselves White, &c.

Will you permit me also to ask you to give these instructions, and these explanations, to all citizens of French origin whom you know.

Will you be good enough to advise your people to answer correctly the questions which will be put to them by the enumerators, assuring them that they need fear no increase of taxes, since the census has not this object in view; and also not to hesitate to make known the real value of their properties. But above all, insist, I beg of you, that the true origin of all our compatriots may be correctly registered by the census officials.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS COTE,

Assistant Census Commissioner.

2. If so, how many such circulars were issued, giving the number sent to each province?

3. Were such circulars sent out under the frank of the Minister of Public Works?

4. Were such circulars sent out under the instructions of the government?

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE** (Hon. Sydney Fisher). The translation given here of the circular letter referred to, is substantially correct. Eighteen hundred and fifty-five were sent out by mail, as follows: 744 in Ontario, 196 in New Brunswick, 287 in Prince Edward Island, and 441 in British Columbia. These circulars were sent out under the frank of the Department of Agriculture, but a certain number of them were sent out under the frank of the Department of Public Works, from the fact that Mr. Coté, who was sending them out, had his office in the Department of Public Works until the office in the Seybold building was ready. Some of the circulars were also franked from the House of Commons in consequence of Mr. Coté inquiring about addresses in this building, and sending them from here after the mail was closed in the department. Such circulars were sent out under the instructions of the department, for the purpose of obtaining correct answers to the questions in the census schedules, just as similar instructions were sent out to a number of the census commissioners in the province of Quebec, to the effect that people whose names were Fraser, Ross, Pettigrew, Carroll, &c., should be entered in the column of origins, as being of English, Irish or Scotch origin, although they spoke French entirely; and must be put in the column of languages as speaking French. This and other information has been sent

out for the guidance of the census takers, so as to secure absolutely accurate information in the census.

LEVIS BRIGADE CAMP.

Mr. MORIN asked:

1. Whether the Militia Department has considered the evidence given in the inquiry ordered last autumn by Colonels Aylmer and Foster, staff officers at Ottawa, into certain charges as to irregularities committed at the last brigade camp at Lévis, last summer, in the 17th Regiment of Lévis?

2. If so, is it the intention of the department to pay the men who have received only a portion of their pay for the said brigade camp?

3. Is it the intention of the department to indemnify the men who testified at the said inquiry and to grant them their pay for the last camp?

4. Is the department taking steps to prevent the recurrence of such irregularities as those which have been committed?

5. Is it the intention of the department to punish the officers guilty of the said irregularities, for the honour of the other officers of the 17th Regiment?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Hon. F. W. Borden):

1. The evidence has been considered.

2. There are no unsettled claims before the department from the men of the 17th Regiment.

3. Any claims submitted on the part of the individuals who testified before the Court of Inquiry will be duly considered, and any pay to which they are entitled for service in the last camp which they attended will be paid.

4. Yes.

5. Such steps will be taken in behalf of the well-being of the militia as the circumstances demand.

SUPPLY—PENSION TO HEADQUARTERS STAFF, PERMANENT MILITIA.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Hon. W. S. Fielding) moved that the House go again into Committee of Supply.

Hon. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.) Before you leave the Chair, Sir, I wish to make some remarks on a matter that I have very much at heart, and which is of great importance to the country at large, and I trust that hon. members on both sides, although they may not in the past have taken much interest in this subject, will give me a patient hearing and due consideration to what I have to say. I refer to