

He quite agreed with his hon. friend that sufficient care had not been taken of the arms, and he hoped better care would be taken of them in future.—Item passed.

On item 60, Drill Pay, &c., \$375,000,

Mr. FLESHER asked what was the intention of the Government with reference to drill this year.

Hon. Mr. VAIL said they had not yet decided whether they would have camp drill or merely drill at the headquarters of each regiment. He himself questioned whether it was wise to have camp training every year.

Mr. DYMOND suggested that if the militia were called out for camp drill, some time of year be fixed that would be most convenient, and at the same time most comfortable for the men. In one instance they were called out in October, although they might just as well have been called out in June, which was a much superior season. If the system of camp drill was to be continued, he would suggest the propriety of having it only every other year, and then instead of twelve days let sixteen or eighteen days be taken. At present the time was too short for the men to become familiar with their duties.—Item passed, as was also item 61 contingencies \$63,000. On item 62, Targets (revote) \$19,500,

Mr. FLESHER called attention to the necessity of nine targets for the rural districts. He commanded a company for several years, and they had never been supplied with a target.—Item passed, also item 63.

On item 64, care and maintenance of properties transferred from the Ordnance and Imperial Government, \$10,000.

Hon. Mr. CARTWRIGHT said some Imperial officers had made complaints which appeared to be justifiable of the condition of some of these properties, and it was necessary that proper care should be taken of them. Of course, no more would be spent for this purpose than was absolutely necessary. Item passed.

On item 65, for Improved Fire-Arms (Snider Rifles and "Henry Martini" Rifles,) \$40,000,

Mr. KIRKPATRICK asked whether these "Henry Martini" Rifles were to be kept in store or distributed to favored corps.

Hon. Mr. VAIL said it was proposed to purchase them at all events for the militia

Hon. Mr. Vail.

of the coming year. The Imperial Government had a quantity on hand which they offered to dispose of.

Mr. LANDERKIN asked if these arms were to be used by Rifle Associations as well as Volunteer Companies.

Hon. Mr. VAIL—That question has not yet been considered.—Item passed, also items 66 and 67.

On item 68, Pay and Maintenance of Dominion Force in Manitoba, \$125,000,

Hon. Mr. CARTWRIGHT said they had been able to reduce this item by \$50,000, chiefly in consequence of the Mounted Police Force, and it was not impossible that owing to the success of that latter force they might be able to make still further reductions.

Mr. MASSON called attention to the fact that the report of the Minister of Militia was not yet before the House, and therefore they could not judge of the state of the Manitoba force. However, he was in that Province last fall, and he was somewhat startled on being reliably informed up there that that force had not performed any target practice since they went up, and had not even fired a blank cartridge. He would take this opportunity of saying that while the Mounted Police might do good service, he thought their services so far had been greatly exaggerated. He suggested the propriety of introducing something of the military system into that force, making it something like the *gens d'armes* of France, and then of doing away with the militia force entirely.

Hon. Mr. VAIL said his report had been in the printer's hands some days, and he hoped to lay it on the table of the House in a few days. The information which the hon. gentleman had given to the House was new to him; but if what he had stated was correct, he (Mr. VAIL) might congratulate the House and the country on the fact that it was not necessary for the force in Manitoba to fire even a blank cartridge. That force had been reduced by some 50 men, leaving about 200 there still.

Mr. HAGGART asked why one of the officers who had distinguished himself in the first expedition, and had been asked to command the troops in the second, had been discharged when the reduction was made.