

as I am concerned, I will criticise them in this way: that I believe the money has not been spent in the right direction. It appears the North-West is the only portion of our great Dominion that has been protected by an armed force. That force, in the past, was composed of 300 mounted men, and it speaks well for the Mounted Police that they should have maintained order in that country during the past number of years in which they have had control of it. Instead of having to increase the Mounted Police at this date we ought rather to be able to dispense with a portion of them. If volunteer companies were formed in the Territories, and the money we spend on the Mounted Police was paid to them for two or three weeks drill every year, it would be much cheaper than keeping up a standing corps of Mounted Police. The money that it takes to keep half a dozen mounted policemen would keep a whole company of volunteers, and the volunteers have proved themselves quite as capable of meeting any emergency as the Mounted Police. The Minister of Militia has stated that the Government have kept up 37,000 men in the older Provinces. I think it is a great mistake to spend all the money in keeping up 37,000 men in these Provinces, when little or nothing has been spent in the North-West. The North-West is the only portion of the Dominion which requires protection by an armed force, and certainly the greater portion of the money should be spent there. I felt very much grieved at the answer I received from the hon. the Minister of Militia, in the earlier part of the Session, at the time of the breaking out of the rebellion. I asked him if it was his intention to furnish arms to volunteer companies who would organise for protection or to go the front. I was answered that the Government were very careful in whose hands they placed arms in Manitoba. Hon. gentlemen opposite may say "hear, hear," but they may live to see the day when they may regret glorying in such statements. The people of that Province are as loyal as any in the Dominion, and the Minister of Militia has stated to-night that the volunteers of Winnipeg have stood the brunt of battle; and the volunteers from all over the Province of Manitoba, who have gone to the front, in all, some 1,000 young men, have stood the brunt of battle; and I think it ill becomes any hon. member of this House to sneer at the volunteers of the West. But we may probably expect such things from hon. gentlemen opposite. We find that an hon. gentleman, a member of the Government, the Minister of the Interior, in the Upper House, a few days ago, said he had no doubt, when the papers were brought down about the troubles, that it would be found among Riel's papers that the Farmer's Union had a great deal to do with the recent rebellion. I repudiate any such statement, coming from an hon. member of the Upper House, or from this House. The people of Manitoba are as loyal, and have proved themselves as loyal during the late trouble, as any other citizens of the Dominion. I say, with reference to this Bill before us, that I believe the money intended to be spent in more than doubling the present strength of the force would, a portion of it, be much better spent in maintaining volunteer companies. We have hundreds of young men in Manitoba who have proved themselves willing to go to the front within the last two or three months, although they were not drilled, and I say that a portion of this money spent in the maintenance of an increased Mounted Police force would be much better spent and have a much greater effect in forming a large number of men into a militia company, ready to go into action at any time. I do hope that, whether the Mounted Police are increased or not, the Minister of Militia or the First Minister may see fit to organise volunteer companies all over the Province of Manitoba and the North-West. If there is a Province in the Dominion in which volunteers should be encouraged it is that Province and the Territories. It is the only one where there need exist any fear of the Indians, or,

I might say, from the frontier. We have a frontier of about 100 miles in extent of prairie country. We have been isolated in the past, to a certain extent, from other portions of the Dominion; our Province and the Territories have been under the control of 300 armed men, and little or no arms or ammunition have been kept in the Province for distribution among the settlers for their own defence. The Mounted Police deserve credit for the work they have done in the North-West. It is wonderful, when we consider the struggle that has taken place lately, how 300 men managed to keep these Indians so well under control. This trouble having arisen, and the Government having seen fit to increase the mounted police, I hope the Government will not omit to organise volunteer companies, either mounted or infantry, in Manitoba and the Territories.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. BLAKE. As the hon. Minister of Militia will not give the House further information, I hope to be able to extract it some other time. I do not propose to trouble the House with further reference to this matter, but wish to say a few words with reference to some things the right hon. gentleman has stated. He has declared that the statements I have made are not justified by the facts; and he said that I had drawn upon my imagination for them, or upon information from outside. Now, the history that I gave to the House of the rise and fall of the five companies of the North West volunteers was extracted from the hon. gentleman's own reports. These were the sources of my information. It was from these I derived the facts. If those reports are unreliable, if they do not convey to the House and the country the truth, if they do not state the facts accurately, then, of course, I have been inaccurate, but it was because I was guileless enough to believe that the hon. gentleman's reports were correct, and because I supposed that he, at any rate, would accept them as correct. I have shown from those documents the difficulties which these men were beset with. I have shown from the reports, from year to year, of his own officer, to his own Department what their trouble was. I have shown that, in consequence of their not being furnished with uniforms they were not authorised to drill; that they were relieved from drill because the uniforms were not sent out. I have shown what was their discouragement by his own officer, and I have shown the views of his own officer, from year to year, of the necessary results of that discouragement; and what were the reasons the hon. gentleman gave for letting those companies fall into this condition? They were two-fold. First, he said it was true, as I had read in a speech of his, that the organisation of the militia forces of the North-West was a large question. That was one of the reasons why they were allowed to fall into decay. It was a large question, it was too large a question for the hon. gentleman to handle; it was too large a question for him to grapple with.

Mr. CARON. Too large for the vote you gave.

Mr. BLAKE. I will deal with the vote presently. It was too large a question for the hon. gentleman to handle. The Government declared, in the year 1879, that it was their policy to organise forces in the North-West; that these Territories should have a corps wherever there was a population sufficient for it. They told Parliament so. They obtained a small special vote for the initiation of that. They proceeded in that line. They declared it each year, and, without telling Parliament what they were going to do they seem, administratively and executively, to have adopted the opposite policy, of extinguishing the forces in the North-West Territories. It was not the policy announced to Parliament. The hon. gentleman did not say: The result of my consideration of the North-West affairs is that I have decided to reverse the policy which I sent to Col. Osborne Smith, in 1879, when I told him to tell the inhabi-