

In Parliament.

THE first session of the sixth parliament of Canada was brought to a close on Thursday evening last, the 23rd inst., and we are able in this number to conclude our resumé of incidents in the House of Commons of interest to the militia force.

On the 6th inst. Mr. Barron moved for copies of all documents from the officer commanding the Governor-General's Body Guard during the late North-West rebellion to the Minister of Militia or Major-General recommending for promotion Lieut. William Hamilton Merritt, of that corps, on account of services rendered by him while on service during said rebellion; and of the replies made by the Minister or Major-General to said commanding officer, Deputy Adjutant-General District No. 2, or to any other person. The mover said he considered the replies unsatisfactory, and he would like to have more information on the subject. The Minister of Militia being out of the House the motion was not then pressed.

Mr. Holton asked, on the 15th, does Colonel Bergin retain the position of Surgeon-General in the active militia? If so, what is his salary, and what are his duties? In reply Sir Adolphe Caron stated that Colonel Bergin is gazetted Surgeon-General, and retains his position in the active militia. He has no duties to perform, and is not under pay.

Mr. Amyot asked, whether Lieut.-Col. Grey, of the Toronto Field Battery, has been appointed to the command of C Battery of the Canadian Regiment of Artillery, and whether it is the intention of the government to appoint him? Sir Adolphe replied that Lieut.-Col. Grey has not been appointed to the command of C Battery. Lieut.-Col. Holmes was appointed to that position by general order, dated the 10th of August, 1883, under authority of an Order in Council passed on the 9th of July, 1883.

In answer to a series of questions by Mr. Bechard, Sir Adolphe Caron stated that the resignation of Capt. Duhaime from the command of No. 3 company of the 84th Batt. was received in February last. Lieut. Valcourt had been recommended for promotion, and the necessary papers had been sent to Lieut.-Col. Harwood, the D.A.G. of the district, to obtain the transfer of the arms of the company. Mr. Milton Macdonald had been recommended for the vacant majority in the battalion.

On the 16th Mr. Wallace enquired concerning the supply of arms to the College of Ottawa, and elicited the following reply, which the Minister said had been furnished him by the D.A.G.: Arms were furnished to the students of the college, but no ammunition was issued. Thirty short Enfield rifles and 41 Peabody rifles, and none other, were furnished, by its authorities or by the department. A cadet and Zouave uniform was worn. It was not of government pattern or approved by the department. No inspection has been made since four years ago, but the cadets were formerly inspected. No instructor was asked for by the college since four years ago. Last April Capt. Bliss volunteered as instructor, without pay, and acted for six drills only; the students not having time to attend regularly, drill was dispensed with. The instruction was according to our field exercise. He could not say if they also drill according to the United States military tactics.

THE MOUNTED POLICE.

The item of \$763,426 for the North-West mounted police came up on the 17th. Sir Richard Cartwright wished to know, as this, he supposed, had now become a permanent regular force, whether there was under consideration any project for retaining the men for a longer time than at first contemplated, or whether any allowances in the way of gratuity or pensions are likely to be made for those men who may remain, say, 20 or 25 years. Sir John Macdonald replied that he was very glad the question had been asked. He said: If I had all the information necessary I would most likely have introduced this session a measure for a regulated scale of payment or pension to the mounted police force. It is most valuable. I do not think there is a finer force in the world than the 1,000 men who form the mounted police. They are pretty well paid, but they have exceedingly hard work to perform. It is so hard that very many of the men are invalided; young, healthy fellows going up apparently fit for their work break down; they have not the fibre to stand, and we find that after two or three years' service they are unwilling to remain. The consequence is that we have too many recruits, and it is of very great consequence that we should keep the men who have been well trained. A man who has been trained and has been in the force for five years is worth five men who have been there one year. The continual complaint of the commandant of the force is that he cannot keep his men. It is of great importance that these men should be thoroughly trained, not only in a military sense, but as a constabulary. I propose, if I live, to submit to parliament next session a scheme for inducing the men to remain in the service. There are a great many educated men, men of university education, who one would say are fitted for superior stations in life, and we are promoting

the best of them as they rise to be non-commissioned officers by giving them commissions in the force. But we find it difficult to get men. This year about 300 men will leave the force of 1,000, a most serious depletion, because the most of these are men who have served from three to five years, and who are perfect soldiers and perfectly understand their duties.

In answer to further inquiries, Sir John stated, that there were 850 horses for the 1,000 men. Sir Richard Cartwright again urged the expediency of having light pieces of artillery provided for the force, and Sir John stated that the artillery now consisted of four 9-pounders, six 7-pounders, and two mortars. There were no Gatling guns. Some Indian and some half-breed scouts were employed. The officers of the force now consist of a commissioner and an assistant commissioner, eleven superintendents, thirty-two inspectors, one senior surgeon, six assistant surgeons, and two veterinary surgeons.

On the item of \$1,000 "to pay C. Campbell, second-class clerk, Department of Militia and Defence, for services—compilation of correspondence and précis on the defences of Canada (prior to 1st July, 1886), Sir Adolphe Caron explained that this was a valuable contribution on a very important matter. Mr. Campbell is a retired officer of the British navy. The compilation which he has worked up is one taken from papers which were in the home office, in England, from papers in Halifax, from all the reports made to the Department of Militia at different times upon the defences of Canada, and it also comprises all the despatches exchanged between the Imperial government and the Canadian government upon that question. It is a confidential report, not for publication.

Upon the item of \$1,400 being proposed for a gratuity of two years' pay to Lieut.-Col. W. T. Baird, Hon. A. G. Jones asked whether the government could not reconsider their decision with reference to Colonel Milson. The Minister of Finance, he said, is aware that Col. Milson entered the service of Nova Scotia previous to the Union. He left the Imperial service with the expectation, if not with the understanding, that his position thereafter was to be permanent. After a certain number of years at the time of the Union, he was transferred to the service of the Dominion, and in the course of time his services were dispensed with, leaving him an old man now, practically without any support. Sir Charles Tupper said he had called the attention of the Minister of Militia, on more than one occasion, to Colonel Milson, and expressed his great desire that anything consistent with a due regard to public economy should be done for him. Mr. Jones asked whether Col. Milson was entitled to a pension, to which Sir Adolphe Caron replied in the negative, and the matter then dropped.

ARMS IN THE NORTH-WEST.

On the 22nd inst. Mr. Hesson asked, whether the government had seen an editorial in the *Battleford Herald* of the 7th instant, complaining that an order had been issued commanding the volunteers of Battleford to send in their arms for transmission to Winnipeg, to be stored there? If there is any truth in said statement, is it the intention of the government to enforce said order? Sir Adolphe Caron replied that an order was at first given to collect these arms, to have them inspected and repaired, and put in order at Winnipeg. Subsequently, instructions were sent, by order of the Minister, to have them cared for by the mounted police. These arms are now being collected by the mounted police, and will be returned by them. In addition to the above, 200 stand of arms have been sent to Regina, 100 to Battleford, and 200 to Prince Albert, in charge of the mounted police. There were in Battleford 274,000 rounds of ammunition, of which 150,000 rounds are to be sent to Prince Albert for safe keeping, in charge of the mounted police; 5,000 rounds have also been sent to Regina.

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE.

How the Militia in all parts of Canada marked the Happy Occasion.

HER MAJESTY'S JUBILEE was celebrated in Montreal on the 21st inst. in a most enthusiastic manner. The day was a civic holiday, and the populace went in for doing honor to the gracious lady who has so well ruled our destinies for the last fifty years. At an early hour the streets became dotted by the wearers of military uniforms, many of whom were at the Bonaventure station to welcome the arrival of the 14th P.W.O. rifles from Kingston. At 10.30 a.m. the Montreal volunteer force, along with the 14th were formed in quarter column on the Champ de Mars, the Montreal Field Battery, Lieut. Hall in command, on the right, then the Montreal Garrison Artillery, Lieut.-Col. Oswald; Montreal Engineers, Lieut.-Col. Kennedy; the 5th, Lieut.-Col. Caverhill, and the 6th Fusiliers, Lieut.-Col. Massey, forming the 1st brigade. Lieut.-Col. A. A. Stevenson, M.F.B., brigadier, and Major Atkinson, M.G.A., brigade major. The 2nd brigade were