

communication which has cost us so much money to establish, whether the Government intends to allow these Indian reserves to be located along these lines; whether these lands are to be tied up, so as to force the settlers to go back from the line of railway, and these poor miserable creatures, seeking charity and living in misery, to remain in the vicinity of these settlers, retarding the growth of the country, keeping people from going in there, and at the same time being a positive injury to the Indians themselves. I feel it is my duty to call attention to the fact that one of the first duties of the Government should be to lay before us some policy as to the treatment of the Indians in the future. I do not suppose that any advice I could give would have much effect, but I suggest that some policy should be adopted in regard to the removal of these Indian tribes from the line of railway, that those bands who have proved to be rebellious and murderous in their character should be removed to the far north. We know that, in many cases, it is necessity which has driven the Indians to plunder. There is no fish in the lakes and very little in the rivers in the south, the buffalo are all driven away, the game is all gone; the Indians will not live by work, they cannot live by hunting as they did formerly. Remove them to the north, where the game exists, where the lakes and rivers abound in fish, where they will be free from the track of civilisation, and will not be subject to the evils that civilisation often brings upon these tribes. Before considering this question of the increase of the police force in the North-West, we ought to have some statement of the policy of the Government in regard to them in the future. I do not wish to detain the House any longer, but I desire to call attention to the fact that this is the duty of the Government in the present crisis.

Mr. CHARLTON. I may say if the Government adopt the policy of moving the Indian tribes to the far north it will be found to be rather a tedious and expensive process. The experience of the United States in removing Indian tribes, such as the Seminoles of Florida, for instance, to the Indian territory west of the Mississippi, shows that in almost every case it has been at an expenditure of a very large sum of money. I think the removal of the Seminoles, only a few hundred Indians, from the everglades of Florida, cost the Government of the United States \$12,000,000. I am sure it will be found cheaper to pursue the policy that is being pursued in some measure by the Government, of feeding the Indians where they are, rather than attempt their removal to the far north. I think it is doubtful whether, if you remove them to the far north, the necessity of feeding them would be obviated. But I rose more especially to call the First Minister's attention to an expression he used a while ago which I am afraid will not be received in a very good spirit by our volunteers. We have now very nearly completed the suppression of the insurrection in the North-West, and it has been done in a manner so creditable to our volunteer force as to secure for them encomiums from the United States and from abroad. We may congratulate ourselves upon the result of the first trial of our troops in action. It has raised Canada very high in the estimation of the various States as a military country. It has given us confidence in ourselves, as well as in our own ability to cope with difficulties of this kind. I was very sorry to hear this expression fall from the lips of the First Minister, in speaking of the qualities that were required for a member of the Mounted Police force. He said: "He is not merely food for powder, like the soldier, where the only thing required is physique." Now this expression is an unhappy one as applied to our volunteer force, and is a most unjust one, because they are something better than mere food for powder, and they possess qualities other than mere physique.

Mr. MITCHELL.

It is a highly intelligent force, a brave force, a force who not only met the dangers of action, but endured great hardships in moving from the eastern Provinces to the west, and endured those hardships in a manner highly creditable to their spirit, to their endurance and to their intelligence. I repeat that I was sorry to hear that expression from the lips of the First Minister with reference to our soldiers, who have acquitted themselves so creditably in every way.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I should be very sorry, indeed, to think that any of my remarks could be understood as in any way disparaging to the general intelligence as well as to the patriotism of our volunteers. Our volunteers are much more than mere soldiery. I was drawing a distinction between a purely military force and a police force. In a military force, as arranged by armies in Europe and in the United States, the recruiting officer looks at the man and sees if he has the requisite height and physique, and if he passes the military examination he is taken on as a soldier. I pointed out that in this constabulary other qualities are required. We know perfectly well that our volunteers are not mere soldiery, and are not raised from those ranks which usually, especially in England, form the enlisted soldiery. They are taken from all ranks. We have relatives of the first men in society serving as mere soldiers. They have turned out voluntarily and patriotically, bringing with them all their education and intelligence. There can be no comparison between our militia in Canada, both those who have gone to the front and those who have not gone to the front—there can be no comparison between them and the enlisted soldiery of the regular standing armies of Europe or America. With respect to our volunteers, I think the Government as fully appreciate their services as the hon. gentleman. I quite agree with the sentiments he has expressed, and before this Session closes the Government will have occasion at a fitting time, not only to pay a just tribute to the services of the officers and soldiers of our active militia now fighting the battles of their country, but of marking in a material way their great sense of the services of those men. My hon. friend from Northumberland (Mr. Mitchell) says the Government has come down with an Indian policy. We have no new Indian policy at all. The policy that existed at the time the hon. gentleman was my colleague, exists now. It is simply this: To observe good faith towards the Indians, to treat them kindly, and to treat them firmly. If there has been a fault at all in the administration—I do not speak of the present administration but of all administrations—it is that we have been rather over-indulgent to the Indians. But what can we do? We cannot, as Christians, and as men with hearts in our bosoms, allow the vagabond Indian, the pauper Indian, to die before us. Some of those Indians—and it is a peculiarity of their nature—will hang around the stations and will actually allow themselves to die, in the hope that just before the breath leaves their body they will receive some sustenance from the public stores. That sustenance has been given. It has been given very grudgingly, very carefully, very parsimoniously. Men have brought themselves down to the starvation point, believing that we would not allow them to die. Well, what are we to do with these Indians? The reserves they now hold are given them by treaty. They are their property; we cannot deprive them of those reserves without another treaty. If it has happened that after these reserves have been established near a railway, or another railway comes near them, or a white settlement comes inconveniently near them, why, the railway complains, of course, that the Indians haunt the stations. We cannot help that. They live on their own property, they are free men, and we cannot help that. We cannot drive them back