

# Dominion Parliament

## Lieut.-Col. Domville Introduces a Bill to Amend the Militia Act.

## Expenses of Canadian Contingents-Hon. Mr. Fielding's Notice of Motion.

Ottawa, Feb. 8.—Members on the government side of the House of Commons yesterday had another chance of displaying their party enthusiasm when Mr. Edward Fortier, the member-elect for Lotbinière, took his seat on that side of the chamber. He was introduced by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. La Vergne. Mr. Fortier, although elected in opposition to the Liberal who had secured the support of the convention, has already announced his principles as a follower of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

A committee was named to strike the regular committee of the House, and at the request of the leader of the opposition, this committee will complete its labors without delay, meeting on Friday.

Mr. Davin brought in his bill respecting pensions for the Northwest Mounted Police, which he explained at length. Lieut.-Col. Domville brought in a bill in amendment of the Militia Act, the object of which is to provide that Canada shall not be required to take an Imperial officer as commander of its militia force. It might be that some people had the idea that this country had not officers fit to take a position of this kind, but when our officers get back from South Africa with the war experience they will have gained there, what reason, he asked, was there that they should be barred? He could assure the House that before this session closed it would be in possession of evidence that would make it plain that it would be much more prudent to have one of our own officers in command of our force.

Mr. Ingram (East Elgin) is the author of a bill to amend the franchise law so as to provide that those who have gone to South Africa as members of the militia contingents should not be deprived of their right to vote at a general election, should one be held, even if they return to the Dominion before the election. The Hon. Mr. Power took up the question, and the first one of any interest was by Lieut.-Col. Domville (King's, N. B.) in relation to an interview with Major-General Hutton published some days ago in which the latter had said that "imperial contingents" which had gone to South Africa had been sent without the fact that he went unaccompanied. Another statement of the general had been that those who had seen the letters written by Col. Hughes were all of the opinion that he could not have been exactly in his right mind when he wrote in the manner he did.

The Minister of Militia acknowledged that he had seen the interview in question and had seen the general officer commanding in regard to its authenticity. General Hutton had said that he used the statements in question, but had not given them for publication.

In reply to an enquiry by Sir Herbert Tupper, the Minister of the Interior stated that the government had not instituted criminal proceedings against any of the officials referred to in the evidence taken before the enquiry conducted by William Ogilvie. Their reason for this course was that sufficient evidence had not been shown for prosecution.

The House next took up the notices of motion by private members. One by Mr. Bourassa (Labelle), which passed, was for copies of all correspondence in the possession of the government relating to the offer of Major-General Hutton to serve in the South African war, and also all correspondence between the Department of Militia and Defence and Major-General Hutton relating to the organization of the Canadian contingents dispatched to South Africa.

Sir Herbert Tupper had a number of motions for papers relating to the Yukon which were all passed without discussion. Mr. Foster obtained an order for a return giving an itemized statement of the number of gallons of spirituous and malt liquors taken into the Yukon since the last return issued, the names of the permits issued, and the names of those persons or companies which obtained them and the amount paid therefor.

Mr. Davin moved for copies of all correspondence respecting contracts for supplies for the Northwest Mounted Police. Mr. Monk (Jacques Cartier) obtained an order for copies of all correspondence between the Department of Finance and the directors and officials of the Ville Marie Bank since Jan. 1, 1900, and the reports upon the situation of the said bank by the officers of the Department of Finance, as well as a statement of all sums paid by the government in connection with the prosecution of directors and officials of the bank since its suspension.

Sir Charles Tupper rose with a copy of a telegram from his son in Winnipeg containing a report of his speech the other day, as it appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press, in which the Ottawa correspondent said that he had attacked French-Canadians in a most bitter way, but said that he did not include all of them in it. The leader of the opposition said that a more false statement of his remarks could not have been made, and promised that unless a retraction and apology were forthcoming he would move that the offending member of the press gallery be expelled from the privileges of the House of Commons press gallery.

The Prime Minister said that he would not like to say anything as to the correctness or incorrectness of the report that he had had an opportunity of looking at the paper himself. He would be heartily willing to do anything in his power to see that the reports sent out from the House of Commons of members' speeches and the headlines reflected correctly the views expressed. He had himself been falsely accused by some newspaper writer of having spoken at a meeting against Sir Charles Tupper as having stirred up feeling in Ontario against himself as a French-Canadian. This report had been cited yesterday by Mr. Foster and was wholly without warrant. He had never used Sir Charles Tupper's name in this connection at Sherbrooke. He spoke thus only to show that he had been a sufferer in the same way.

Mr. Foster said he would look at the report from which he had quoted and would see whether it bore out what he had said.

Sir Charles Tupper again asked for information as to whether the government of Canada had, as stated in the papers, given its concurrence to the denunciation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. The Prime Minister was not able to say till he had the permission of the Imperial authorities, but he hoped to lay the papers on the table in a day or two.

Mr. McNeill renewed his request of the Minister of Militia that he should make an offer of Canadian militiamen to replace the Leinster Regiment at Halifax when that corps is ordered to South Africa.

The Prime Minister intimated that the government was in communication with the Imperial authorities on the subject but could give no more information. The House adjourned at half-past five o'clock.

Several more bills are given notice of by private members. Mr. Douglas will champion once more his bill to regulate the grain trade in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories. Mr. McInnes will bring in again his bill to impose certain restrictions on immigration because the government gives notice of this bill in amendment of the Criminal Code.

### IN THE SENATE.

In the Senate yesterday the Hon. Jos. Sheyn was introduced by the Hon. David Mills and the Hon. Mr. Scott, and took his seat for Chicoutimi. Because the Hon. Mr. Tarte, the Ottawa Citizen of Saturday, Feb. 3rd, has the following passage as part of his editorial: "He, the Hon. Mr. Tarte, has just told the people of Toronto that the reason why Mr. Chapleau has been chosen to be the clerkship of the Senate is because the government has made up its mind to reform the Senate." Had the Hon. Minister of Public Works made the above official declaration?

The Hon. David Mills had not seen the question, nor did he know what Mr. Tarte said. He disputed the statement.

After some discussion the matter dropped. The Hon. L. Power took up the speech from the throne given by clause. He denied that the speech contained the government's full credit for the prosperity. The prosperity was an undoubted fact, and had dispelled the old myth of a secret arrangement between providence and the Conservatives. It was regrettable that politics had been introduced into the Transvaal question. Canadians were all agreed in the matter, and he believed supported the government's action. He reviewed the Transvaal debate of last session, and defended the government from the charge of unnecessary delay. He charged Sir Charles Tupper with having sent his dispatch offering to support the government to the Montreal Star before it reached the Premier, which, he said, was not the way gentlemen did.

The Hon. Mr. Power having defended the French-Canadians, pointed out that in England the government was applauded and a high encomium passed on Lord Strathcona. He defended the government's action as regarded pay. In future Canada would be called on to send troops to other wars, and she might not be always able to do so.

Mr. Macdonald (British Columbia) accused Mr. Power of having introduced the charge of disloyalty; no one else. He gave unstinted praise to Mr. Mills's speech, and held that the government had been tardy in sending troops. He believed if the Premier and Mr. Tarte had had their way not a man would have been sent. Where would those gentlemen and Mr. Bourassa go if Canada were invaded by foreign foes. He gave a beed of praise to Lord Strathcona, and hoped the House would give him three cheers at rising. He spoke highly of Dr. Borden and the way the contingents were dispatched. He urged full investigation of the Yukon administration, though not blaming the government for the mismanagement of officials.

The Hon. Mr. Bernier regretted that any question of French-Canadian loyalty should be made. For a hundred years French-Canadians had been loyal, and he reviewed their acts in defence of Canada. The Manitoba school question, he said, was not settled, nor would it be till justice was done.

### EXPENSES OF CANADIANS.

The Hon. Mr. Fielding last night gave notice in the House of Commons that he will next Friday move that the House go into committee of the whole and consider the following resolution with respect to the expense of sending the two Canadian contingents to South Africa: "1. Resolved, that it is expedient to provide that from and out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada there shall and may be paid and applied a sum not exceeding the sum of \$250,000 authorized under order-in-council, dated the fourth day of November, 1899, and the sum of \$900,000, authorized by order-in-council, dated the fifth day of January, 1900, towards payment of any expenditures incurred or to be incurred in sending the contingents of Canadian volunteers to South Africa or in connection therewith, and the members of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and the officers and persons who authorized or made the expenditure of any of the said sums under the orders-in-council above referred to, or under any warrant of His Excellency the Governor-General, issued in consequence of or on the authority thereof, are hereby indemnified and exonerated from all liability by reason of having used or authorized the use of the above mentioned sums of money, or any portion thereof, without due legal authority and all expenditures heretofore made of any said sums shall be held to have been lawfully made."

"2. In addition to the said sum of \$850,000 referred to in the preceding resolution, there shall and may be paid and applied from and out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada a further sum not exceeding in the whole the sum of \$1,150,000 towards defraying any further expenditures that may be incurred in connection with the sending of Canadian volunteers for active service in South Africa, and for providing as hereinafter mentioned for a fund by way of allowance to such volunteers or their dependents."

"3. The word 'expenditure' in the foregoing resolutions includes the following:—(a) All expenses of every kind in connection with the raising, enrolling, arming, equipping, provisioning, dispatching and transporting of the said contingents up to the time of their arrival at the place of embarkation in South Africa. (b) The payment of officers, non-commissioned officers, and men composing the said contingents up to the time of embarkation as aforesaid at the rate authorized by the regulations and order of the department of militia and defence. (c) All separation allowances paid to the wives and children of the married non-commissioned officers and men, at the rates laid down by the Imperial regulations of militia and defence. (d) The difference between the rates of pay of the officers, non-commissioned officers and men, which they receive or are entitled to receive from their military government during their period of service in South Africa and the respective rates of pay received by them up to the time of embarkation in South Africa, such difference not to be paid to such officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, while on such service, but the amount which would be payable to each such officer, non-commissioned officer or man to be placed to his credit and to be applied in such manner as the government-in-council may determine for the benefit of the dependents on him, or failing such application, to be paid to him or his representatives at the close of his period of service."

Ottawa, Feb. 9.—The question that engaged the attention of the House of Commons in a very warm debate yesterday afternoon and evening was as to who is responsible for the raising of the race and religious cry in Canada. The subject was induced by another reference to the report of Sir Charles Tupper's speech at the address, as published in the Winnipeg Free Press.

The 100th Regiment. In reply to a question by Lieut. Col. Prior, the Minister of Militia stated that he had been looking towards the repatriation of the 100th Regiment, and the matter is still in progress of negotiation.

Sir Charles and Mr. Magurn. Before the orders of the day were called the Prime Minister drew the attention of the leader of the opposition to the question of the report which appeared of the latter's remarks in the Winnipeg Free Press. He trusted that Sir Charles Tupper would regret the language which he had used towards a respected member of the press. Mr. Magurn had always been known to be a respectable member of a respectable profession. He had thought at the time that Sir Charles had been somewhat hasty, but he had not seen the paragraph in the paper referred to, and so did not express an opinion on the matter at the time. Sir Wilfrid then read the following letter which he had received from Mr. Magurn:

Ottawa, Feb. 8, 1900. The Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier: Dear Sir Wilfrid—I was surprised to hear at my hotel last evening that my name had been mentioned in the proceedings of the House yesterday and an attack made upon me by the leader of the opposition. I cannot conceive it to be the privilege of a House composed of gentlemen to attack in it an absent man and a person occupying simply the position of a private citizen in this country.

I am not a member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, do not write, or dictate, or even see the report to which the honorable gentleman takes exception in a vague and general way. As a visitor I heard some short portions of Sir Charles Tupper's speech in connection with many other visitors. Not being a member of the Press Gallery and not having a seat there I am under no obligation to the House, either real or fancied, and I did not see the report of his speech which he read yesterday was there fore wholly gratuitous.

The leader of the opposition sets up his privilege. I claim the protection of the House against an attempt to injure private reputation, and in the case of a journalist it is the more to be deplored. I have always had a deep sense of responsibility, and the discharge of my duties, and if necessary could have the testimony of nearly every member of this House on both sides as to the fact that I have never in any known passage a great post had characterized the conduct of a man who will attempt to deprive another of his good reputation.

If conclusion it appears to me that the question of an apology should come not from me, but from my detractor. Yours faithfully, A. J. MAGURN.

The reading of the letter brought Sir Charles Tupper to his feet with indignation expressed in every line of his face. He said, "I am a gentleman who had for fifteen years been placed before a committee of the House and had grossly abused his privilege as a member of the press gallery. It appeared, however, that the present telegram had not been sent by Mr. Magurn; but by the regular correspondent, and he would more shortly have this representative excluded from the House."

The statement in the Free Press to which Sir Charles took exception was that he had attacked the French in a most bitter way; but said that he did not include all French-Canadians. The course of his man could print. In the course of his forty-five years of political life, he had come down to this day with a conscience clear of having said a word that would cause race or religious rancor. "We will let the people of this country know," said Sir Charles, "whether a party has descended to so low a position that it can only sustain itself by means of a press which thus violates every principle of honor, and as this question is under discussion, I will take the opportunity of dealing with the question which underlies this statement."

Continuing, the leader of the opposition complained that there existed an organized attempt on the part of gentlemen sitting on the treasury benches to libel, calumniate and traduce him throughout the country, and he would proceed to show some of the evidence by which he sustained that charge. The Minister of Public Works had thrown out that charge, and the Hon. Sydney Fisher, who was engaged in disseminating under his ministerial frank, calumnious pamphlets, lent his countenance to these lying statements.

Sir Charles devoted a few minutes to the Manitoba school question, and its settlement by the Laurier government. A remark of his in this connection which caused a laugh on the other side of the chamber was that he hoped the issue was settled, and didn't want to hear any more about it.

The leader of the opposition said that he would devote a little attention to the refuting of the foul slander that he had ever endeavored to raise the race and religion cry. The Minister of Public Works had said of him that in Winnipeg in 1896 he (Sir Charles) had appealed to his audience in the words: "With you vote against a Protestant and give power to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a French man and a Roman Catholic!" The words had been made use of by the Liberal party ever since, and he would like to set himself right and explain what he had really said. He had asked his audience, speaking to members of the Conservative party, if they were going to turn their backs on him, a Protestant, because of his introduction of the Remedial bill when they had the evidence of Mr. Laurier, that he would take a similar course. He had said: "Why leave me, the leader of the party, to which you belong, to bring into power a French Catholic who declares that the moment he gets into power he will give these people a stronger bill."

Sir Charles referred to the fate of the remedial bill in parliament in 1896, and being taunted as to the desertion of some of the leading members of the party in 1896, he remarked that Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the good fortune to have the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) acting with him. And why? Because Mr. Wallace believed in his heart and conscience that the measure was an unwise one. (Cries of "Oh! Oh!") Yes, and that was the opinion of the gentlemen who now as Sir Charles, the leader of the party, was the prime minister of Canada, who was sandwiched between Mr. Wallace and the late Dalton McCarthy, the man who of all others had raised questions of race and religion in this House. But the Laurier policy was a well-defined policy, declaring one thing to the Protestants of Ontario and another to the Catholics of Quebec.

Mr. Bourassa (Labelle) replied to the leader of the opposition, and asked members to look into what the Free Press had really said as to Sir Charles's remarks. The report did not say that Sir Charles had attacked the French-Canadians, but that he had attacked the French. Referring to the Hansard report of the speech of the leader of the opposition, Mr. Bourassa asked if it had not declared that Mr. Tarte, having been in France, brought back to this country with him the feelings of the French people against Great Britain. It would be the greatest mistake a public man could make to think that the feelings which exist between French-Canadians and English-Canadians in Canada are the same as those which exist between the people of France and the people of England.

Mr. Bourassa added that he was not going to say that the Conservative party had had a monopoly of appeals to religious or national prejudices. Instances might be cited where both parties were at fault. But it was unfortunate that a man of Sir Charles Tupper's standing should feel compelled to use such language as had been quoted to-day and to-day again, and which had resorted to in the city of Winnipeg. This was not the first time the leader of the opposition had endeavored to explain away his utterance in Winnipeg, but there was one point he could not pass over. What was the use of his appealing to the people of Winnipeg on the ground, that he did the greatest mistake a public man could make to think that the feelings which exist between French-Canadians and English-Canadians in Canada are the same as those which exist between the people of France and the people of England.

Mr. McIntosh, the newly returned member for Sherbrooke, was the next speaker, and aimed at showing that the race cry was not a new one in Canada.

Mr. Geo. Casey (West Elgin) remarked that after such a speech as the House had just heard, the leader of the opposition would have to look to his laurels, Sir Charles Tupper seemed to enjoy maligning men sitting within his hearing, who were not privileged to raise their voices in reply.

Mr. Casey said he had broken through the charge that he had broken from his colleagues on a question of bringing a religious question into the House. Speaking of the sending of the contingents, Mr. Wallace gave expression to the opinion that the government might well have acted under the Militia Act.

Mr. Davis (Saskatchewan) informed the House that Mr. Davis had been travelling through the Northwest asking the electorate there if they wanted to see the French-Canadian tall with the Anglo-Saxon dog.

The British Columbia offer. Lieut.-Colonel Prior (Victoria) enquired what the government had done in regard to the British Columbia government's offer to send a contingent to South Africa.

The Prime Minister replied that the British Columbia government had been informed that their offer would be treated as the same as that of Lord Strathcona, the government putting its machinery, organization and officers at the disposal of the province to organize the force, the province bearing all expense.

Mr. Taylor moved the adjournment of the debate and the House rose at 10:20 p.m.

Ottawa, Feb. 10.—Sir Adolphe Caron, in an able speech yesterday afternoon, in the House of Commons, administered a well deserved rebuke to those members who have been questioning the loyalty of French-Canadians, and making it a subject of discussion in parliament. The ex-Postmaster-General, whose voice is not often heard in the debates of the House, took occasion at the same time to call down the Ottawa Citizen, the Conservative organ at the Capital, for a term which it has been applying in a contemptuous tone to the Federal Ministry.

The government's redistribution bill, and a couple of minor items of government legislation received the first readings.

After some formal business, Sir Louis Davies, Minister of Marine, introduced and explained a bill which is to amend an act respecting the safety of ships. Last session, he explained, he had brought in a bill to extend the season for unrestricted deck loads from Oct. 1 to 12. Another provision aimed at empowering port wardens to inspect all deck loads, but owing to the opposition of the shipping interests in the Maritime Provinces this feature had been struck out, and in so doing a mistake was left in failing to cover the time between Jan. 1st and March 16th. It was remedied by the fact that the present measure was introduced.

The Postmaster-General moved the first reading of the government's Redistribution bill, which aims at the restoration of county boundaries to the constituencies which were changed in the redistribution bills of 1882 and 1892. This bill, he said, was in precisely the same form as that which had passed the lower House one year ago but had been thrown out by the Senate. It would now come as something of an old acquaintance. It had been rejected by the Upper House after a brief discussion, and he hoped that this year better counsel might prevail and that the measure, which has already had the endorsement of the popular chamber, would be allowed to become law. It contained features which were novel in legislation, by which the redistribution was not to be performed by politicians, but by a commission of three judges of the High Court of Ontario, men free from party affiliations or ties and who could be counted on to act in a perfectly impartial way. There was no honest man who would not say that the redistribution bills of 1882 and 1892 were a perfect travesty on the principles of representation in parliament. Its whole aim and object was to prevent a fair expression of the will of the electorate. In the Senate the bill of last session had met its fate at the hands of the leader of the Conservative opposition. Perhaps the Upper House was free from party affiliations as had been contemplated when it was formed at Confederation, but he could not help thinking that it was a strange coincidence that the measure had been defeated by the men who are not in accord with the majority in the House of Commons. A number of new appointments had been made to that Chamber within the year and perhaps these gentlemen might be able to convert the majority and secure a hearty consent to the passage of the bill. (Laughter.) It could not be surely that the bill was already prejudged, as some gentlemen on the other side of the chamber would mark time with their laughter. The passage of this legislation would not only add weight to the fulfilment of nearly the last pledge that the Liberal party had given the people of Canada.

Mr. Clarke Wallace, who replied to the Postmaster-General, said that the government's intention was clearly to mark time with this bill as it had no notion of its getting through any more than it had a year ago. Its injustices were apparent on its very face.

Mr. McNeill (North Bruce) renewed his enquiry of the government, which he has made on two or three previous occasions, as to whether an offer will be made to garrison Halifax with Canadian volunteers in the event of the Leinster Regiment being withdrawn from there for service in South Africa.

The Minister of Militia and Defence replied: The government has decided, in the case of the Imperial government withdrawing the Leinster Regiment from Halifax to South Africa to undertake to supply the place of that regiment as part of the garrison from the militia force of Canada.

The Minister of Finance gave notice that he would move on Monday the adoption of his report setting apart a sum of two million dollars to meet the expenses of the Canadian contingents to South Africa.

Mr. McNeill offered his congratulations to the government, and remarked that he thought the time opportune to bring before the House another very important matter. In view of the grave news bulletins he thought that laying aside party feeling, the Premier and leader of the opposition might consult as to how best to aid the Motherland at this time. The Empire was face to face with a formidable conspiracy in South Africa against our fellow colonials and a great national emergency had arisen. It would be impossible to say what the prolongation of the war might mean or what complications it might bring. What condition would Canada be in, in the presence of the land hunger of the Continental nations, if any misfortune were to overtake the Motherland? In what position would Quebec be placed? It would be worse than the English-speaking people because the latter might make common cause with their kindred to the south, if the worst came to the worst.

Mr. John Charlton hardly knew what to make of Mr. McNeill's address. He did not like the alarmist tone of the hon. gentleman's remarks. He could see no signs of the grave crisis referred to. The British government is facing a task which calls for men and money, but he did not think that the Empire was in serious danger from a few thousand half-civilized Boers. The press and people were displaying great ignorance of military matters and fancied they knew

more than the generals in the field. Last week and feeble garrisons had been held up by the Boers at bay. The positions occupied by the British had been carried with the utmost bravery at the point of the bayonet. But that there was any doubt as to the issue of the campaign he could not see.

Continuing, he stated that the government had responded to public sentiment in sending out the two contingents. A Voice—"They had to."

Mr. Charlton—"They were willing to." (Applause.) "No public man will attempt to lead public opinion, and it would not have been politic for the government to assume that public opinion would support them in any particular line of action, especially when taking a course involving the lives of thousands of our sons in Africa and much money. (Applause.) We had better, in my opinion, leave the British generals to work out the problems themselves and sit down in the utmost confidence that British valor and military knowledge will bring us out of this trouble triumphant and victorious. I deprecate the pessimistic tone, the way because it is put through for Britain is not going to abandon South Africa." (Cheers.)

Sir Adolphe Caron, who was leading the opposition yesterday, was the next speaker, and gave expression to views which will be very generally endorsed.

Mr. Caron would be wanting in respect, he said, "to the House of Commons, and French-Canadian, should raise a discussion whether French-Canadians are loyal or disloyal. It would argue on the part of members an ignorance of the very interesting history of this continent, which is not the possibility of existence. In the discussions which have lately taken place it seems to me that they were fraught with more mischief than anything else, when they compared the loyalty of French-Canadians with that of Scotch, or English, or Irish. It seemed to me far beyond the field of proper discussion, simply because Canada has proved on more than one occasion that all her sons were loyal, whether coming from English stock or from those who peopled this country for the first time, who came from France, which we all admire, and which we all love well. But, sir, that assuming that the love for the country of our ancestors has never prevented us on every occasion from being true and loyal to the British flag, which has given us our liberty, the greatest liberty accorded to any people. (Applause.) And, sir, let me say, standing here as a French-Canadian, that in my opinion, if any disaster were to befall the British Empire, the race of all races that would suffer most keenly from that disaster would be the French-Canadian. And, sir, the reason is obvious. My hon. friend has spoken of the English-speaking people making good terms on the other side of the line. Could the French-Canadians occupy a peculiar position on this continent. We possess rights accorded to us by treaty and respected by the English, and that respect is the reason why we have remained on every occasion true and loyal to England."

Sir Adolphe expressed his regret that he had been referring to the government of the day as a moccasin government. The term was one of which he did not approve. For his own part, he was proud to be known as a "moccasin," as the descendant of the noble man who had opened up this continent. But the term used rather as one of scorn, and he hoped the allusion would be dropped.

Lieut.-Col. Prior asked if the government intended in the acceptance of British Columbia's offer of a special contingent that the province should bear the expense of transport to South Africa. The Premier nodded his head in the affirmative.

In reply to an inquiry respecting the Mounted Police, the Minister of Militia announced that that body would be recruited up to its full strength. The government intended to do something in the way of a mounted rifle corps during the present year.

### IN THE SENATE.

The Senate yesterday decided to adjourn till March 1. The Hon. R. W. Scott, on the question of colonial precedence in offering contingents, pointed out that when the Queensland government made an offer last summer, public opinion there rose against the government, acting without calling parliament. The matter dropped till Oct. 10. On that day a message was sent that the offer was delayed by a notice of motion of censure, which would be disposed of at any early date. It was Nov. 2 before the Queensland contingent sailed. The same thing occurred in New South Wales. The government did not make that offer. This was a private offer similar to some made from Canada, in which the makers got snubbed. New South Wales had some 25 men, lancers, drilling in Aldershot. These asked to be allowed to volunteer. The reply was that the government could not give the leave without a vote of parliament. The vote carried by 10 to 10. It was sure that had a vote been taken in Canada not a single member would have cast his vote against it. That was Canada's loyalty. In Queensland after 13 days' debate the vote was 37 to 28. In Western Australia the vote was taken on Oct. 5, and a resolution of loyalty was forwarded. It had another step to go, however, and did not pass the Upper Chamber till Oct. 17, after Canada's offer, and the contingent did not sail till Nov. 5.

In New Zealand the offer was from private individuals, and the answer was that they should be accepted if required.

In South Australia the vote was taken on the same day that Canada's offer was made. In one chamber the vote was 19 to 9, and in the other it was carried on the casting vote of the president. Canada had not been dilatory. She had been before the others. There was not a man in council who did not approve what was done. More than that, he had a conversation a day or two after it had been decided to send the first contingent, with Mr. Tarte, who said "We should not send another contingent?" The offer of a second contingent was made on Nov. 2, before the other colonial contingents had sailed.

### THE PLAGUE AT HONOLULU.

Honolulu, Feb. 16.—Via San Francisco, Feb. 16.—No new cases of plague have developed during the past four days.

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