

will probably be allotted to the Volunteers now in that Province, and if so, what probable quantity per man, and under what conditions such allotments will be made?

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER replied that as early as the beginning of January last the Government considered the expedience of maintaining the two battalions. They decided all but two companies should be discharged on the 1st of May, the two remaining to have 40 men, and a captain and two lieutenants.

Hon. Mr. ANGLIN: What about a chaplain?

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER: Who has uttered the word chaplain? (*Laughter.*) I want to know.

Mr. MACKENZIE: The Minister of Militia had better give notice of this question. (*Renewed laughter.*)

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER: You will hear of this chaplain question more than you think before the end of this session. The question is out of the way, and I understand it came from the hon. member for Gloucester (Hon. Mr. Anglin). (*Laughter.*) He (Hon. Sir George-É. Cartier) supposed that this member would join in spreading the hue and cry made very unnecessarily and very absurdly on the appointment of a chaplain. That was the reason why he wanted to make sure who was his interrupter. He was going to say that the two regiments would remain there for six months, and if the Government should require further service they would be bound to remain for six months longer. Respecting the question of land, the Government was determined, as it always had been determined, to give a free grant of land to these brave Volunteers, and so the commanding officer had already been instructed to enquire what number of men of these two regiments intended to remain in the Province. Those who intended to remain would be entitled to a free grant. With regard to the extent of the grant the Government could not give an answer. The grants, however, would be free and unconditional, because the men deserved it. (*Hear, hear.*) With regard to those Volunteers who did not wish to remain, they had been told they would be carried, free of expense, to their places in Upper or Lower Canada.

Mr. MACKENZIE said that on one point he desired a little more information. It was this. A number of Volunteers had obtained their discharge by personal application since the 1st of January. Would these men be entitled to the same grant of land as the others?

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER said the same Volunteers had applied for a discharge and obtained it. They were there on the spot, and would be entitled to a grant of land if they remained in the country. The men forming a part of the two depot companies, one in Thunder Bay and one in the Island of St. Helen, if they wished to go to Manitoba, would have free grants also.

At the suggestion of **Mr. MASSON (Soulanges)**, Hon. Sir George-É. Cartier repeated the above statement in French. The subject then dropped.

DUTY ON COAL

Mr. MAGILL asked whether it is the intention of the Government, during the present Session of Parliament, to make any alteration in the Tariff, by which the consumers of coal imported from the United States, may be relieved from the present burthensome duty, levied upon that article.

Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS said he was quite certain the hon. gentleman was too experienced in parliamentary affairs not to know that that question could not be answered till the budget was brought down. He was also certain that the hon. gentleman had by this question gained his end.

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CANAL COMMISSION

Mr. MAGILL asked whether, as a commission had been appointed to report upon the question of enlarging the canals of the Dominion, and generally to inquire into the best means for the improvement of our internal water communication, it is the intention of the Government, at an early date, to place any information before this House respecting the progress made by the said Commission; and if such information is to be furnished, will it be in the shape of a report from that Commission, or an announcement of the policy of the Government on the subject of canals.

Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN said the Commission had made considerable progress, and would probably report at an early day. Till then, of course, the last portion of the question must remain unanswered.

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THE FISHERIES QUESTION

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD laid on the table the correspondence respecting the Fisheries, asked for a few days ago by the motion of Sir A. T. Galt. In answer to him the Hon. Premier made the following explanations. He said it was the intention of the Government to take the same steps for the protection of our Fisheries during 1871 as had been lately adopted and now existed. After the cancelling of the Reciprocity Treaty, it would be remembered, the Canadian government thought fit to assert its fishery rights. While preparing to do so, communications were received from the Imperial Government that would appear in the papers now before the House, to the effect that there was a probability of fresh proceedings for the renewal of the treaty; and it was suggested, in view of this fact, that the American fishermen should be allowed to fish in the same unrestrained way as before. The Canadian Government represented that they thought such a course would be unwise; that it was better to proceed at once to the assertion of our rights; that to allow our rights to remain in abeyance would be an apparent surrender of them, which would increase the difficulty of their subsequent assertion.

Her Majesty's government having strong opinions on the subject, and the Canadian government desiring to act in accord with them, a