

mation with reference to that company has not been laid before the House, as was done on former occasions when discussing the affairs of that company in connection with the contract, and in connection with the action taken last Session. I would also call attention to the fact that a considerable number of the returns were ordered by this House with reference to the affairs of that corporation, and immediately concerning the motion of which notice has been given, early in the Session, and that to a great majority of them no answer has been made.

THE DISTURBANCE IN THE NORTH-WEST.

Mr. MILLS. I would say to the Government that I have received a communication from the North-West, in which I have been informed that the commissioners who have been appointed, and who have been engaged for some time, have issued a quantity of scrip to heads of families and others, the same as was done in Manitoba, and that the half-breed scrip has been sold in large quantities for the purpose of obtaining arms and ammunition, and that some of the persons who have sold that scrip are joining Riel at Batoche Crossing. If that is the state of feeling, I think it would be well for the Government to decide whether or not the commission shall continue to issue this scrip, if it is to be applied to such a purpose.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The commissioners have sat at Qu'Appelle and Regina, and they have issued orders and some scrip have been granted. It may be that some of the scrip may have been used for the purchase of arms or ammunition—it may be for a legitimate purpose or it may be for an illegitimate purpose, but I may say that the news from Qu'Appelle and Fort Qu'Appelle is of the most satisfactory character, as to the tone and spirit of the half-breeds there, and under these circumstances, as the hon. gentleman has asked the question, I think I would ask the Minister of Militia to read a telegram he has received.

Mr. CARON. This is a telegram from Colonel Turnbull, who is in command of the cavalry:

"TOUCHWOOD, NORTH-WEST TERRITORY, 3rd May, 1885.

"To Hon. A. P. CARON, Ottawa.

"Have ridden all around important Indian reserves with Indian agent. No fear of any rising, and all Riel's runners have left without success, so crestfallen that I expect to hear of considerable desertion from the rebel camp. All the supplies on this road perfectly safe. Arrival of the cavalry has given confidence to all the settlers along the route, who intend coming in a body to call upon me and thank the Government for the prompt protection given. On the information I have heard, Riel suffered much greater loss than generally supposed, and I do not believe the end is far off—a fortnight at most. The Cavalry School are in excellent health and spirits. Horses rather overworked, but that cannot be avoided. Great praise is given to everyone for the excellent arrangements throughout the expedition, and anyone who grumbles, is not fit to be a soldier.

"J. P. TURNBULL."

Mr. BLAKE. I am sure we are all gratified to hear the telegram which has just been read. I observe by the papers a statement that another portion of the forces has been called out—the Montreal battery—and perhaps the hon. gentleman would say whether that is so, what the strength of the battery is, when they leave, and for what place?

Mr. CARON. The brigade commanded by Colonel Oswald has been called out for the purpose of garrisoning Winnipeg. Hon. gentlemen will understand that it is very important, just at the present, that Winnipeg should not be left without troops. The order has been given to move, and the brigade is now preparing, and I expect will move in a day or two.

Mr. BLAKE. I also observe a statement in the papers that a large number of recruits for the North-West Mounted Police have been enlisted, and have gone to the North-West; and I think I saw by the papers that they have arrived at Winnipeg. Perhaps the hon. gentleman would

Mr. BLAKE.

state what addition to that corps has been made, and whether they have arrived at Winnipeg.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I believe they have arrived. The number I am not quite sure of. In anticipation of the circumstance of the vote that has been asked for the augmentation of that force, recruiting has been going on, and I will inform the House later the number of recruits that have already been got.

Mr. BLAKE. Men and horses, please.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Men and horses.

SECOND READING.

Bill (No. 138) for the relief of George Branford Cox—*(from the Senate)*.—Mr. Beaty. On a division.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY—IMPORTATION OF RAILS.

Mr. MITCHELL asked, 1. Did the Grand Trunk Railway Company in the early part of 1884, or at any time that year, enter at the Custom House, Montreal or St. Johns, Province of Quebec, or any other port in Canada, 2,000 tons or thereabouts of railway rails from the United States, by mistake as steel rails and therefore free from duty, and what time was such entry made? And was the entry made before or after the rails passed into Canada? 2. Did the company on subsequently discovering that such rails were iron and not steel and therefore subject to a duty of 15 per cent., correct such entry by representing them as iron rails? 3. Did they pay the duty on such rails as iron rails, and if so, when was such corrected entry made and duty paid?

Mr. BOWELL. There was no entry of iron rails made by the Grand Trunk Railway Company at the port of Montreal; but in 1883, an importation of rails was made by the Grand Trunk Railway Company at the port of St. John, Province of Quebec, consisting of 2,243½ tons, which were entered, and which paid duty there as iron rails, at the rate of 15 per cent., on the 31st of July of that year. These rails were received in a very rusty state; and as some doubt existed as to whether they were iron or steel, the question was referred to Mr. Hannaford, chief engineer of the Grand Trunk Railway Company at Montreal, who replied that they were iron rails, and they were entered accordingly, and a check was sent to pay the duty.

THE VOLUNTEERS IN THE NORTH-WEST.

Mr. SMALL asked, Whether it is the intention of the Government to recognise in some substantial manner the services of the volunteers engaged in the North-West?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Government will give their full attention to that question hereafter, when they think it will be the proper time and when the opportunity is given.

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

Mr. CHARLTON asked, The net amount and the gross amount of the public debt of Canada on April 30th, 1885.

Mr. BOWELL. The gross amount of the public debt of the Dominion of Canada on the 30th April, 1885, was \$257,291,043.72. The net debt of the Dominion at the same date was \$192,202,186.41.

THE HALF-BREED COMMISSION.

Mr. ROYAL asked, Whether proper and effective means have been taken to inform the white and half-breed population of Prince Albert, Grandin, Stobart and Duck Lake of the issue of the commission to Messrs. Street,