

sible, and as one who has relatives and near friends who are going there I will hold them personally and politically responsible, whether the hon. gentleman regards it as impudence or not.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Mine ancient pistol spoke very brave words at the bridge, and the hon. gentleman opposite speaks very brave words at the bridge. Let him volunteer himself and go to the front; let him take his rifle.

Mr. BLAKE. I wish to enquire, Sir, whether proper steps have been taken to supply those in the North-West who are going forward, and those who are going up to the North-West, with specially warm clothing and proper footing to carry them through their marches?

Mr. CARON. I have already stated that every possible measure has been taken by the Department to give every possible comfort, and to provide the troops that are going up with everything necessary to enable them to go through a long voyage and to withstand the climate of that country.

Mr. CASEY. If I am correctly informed, and I think the information came from the hon. gentleman himself a year or two ago in the course of a debate, a considerable number of Martini-Henry's are in store in this country, brought over for the purpose of rifle shooting. I remember urging on him several times to have these arms brought out, and I understood that they procured some.

Mr. CARON. We have, and we have issued some to the men and will issue them.

Mr. BLAKE. I see it is stated that the Military Secretary of the Governor General has proceeded to the North-West. I desire to enquire whether he is under the instructions of the Government, and in what capacity he goes?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Lord Melgund has volunteered to go up and put himself under the orders of the Major General. He will take his orders from the Major General, and will be employed as the Major General thinks most useful.

Mr. BLAKE. I desire to enquire whether the commission which was spoken of the other day, has issued?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I cannot say it has, but I think it has.

Mr. BLAKE. When are the commissioners expected to start on their journey?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Next Thursday.

Mr. BLAKE. I desire to enquire whether the hon. gentleman proposes, in conformity with the understanding arrived at on Friday, to lay any papers or information upon the Table with reference to the points which were involved in the subject of a formal discussion.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. To what points does the hon. gentleman refer.

Mr. BLAKE. I am sorry these things passed from the hon. gentleman's memory so early. I pointed out on Thursday that there had been long standing questions with reference to the half-breed claims in connection with the lands upon which they have settled, and also claims to be placed in the same position as the Manitoba half-breeds. I asked that we should have information, all reports, all papers, all dates, showing what the action of the Government has been since they had taken office with reference to these claims. I do not speak of each one in detail, but the general results.

The hon. gentleman stated that these claims had now been adjusted—I refer to the settlement claims—except somewhere about fifty, which fifty were to be the subject of investigation by the commission; but we had no dates as to the period of adjustment and their communication to the population; no material at all as to the process of adjustment. So it was pointed out with reference to the surveys, that there had been surveys on the rectangular plan. But there were no papers with reference to that brought down. So with reference to the question as to their being placed on the same footing as the Manitoba half-breeds, and the decision of the Government, which was alluded to in the one report, as a subject involving consideration, and other information and dates upon that point. I also mentioned the published report that Riel had been invited into the country last summer, that he had answered the invitation and had come there; and I assumed that reports had been sent to the Government on that subject. As to the state of the country I assumed also that the Government, having public means of information had requested information, and that they obtained it. Papers on that point would be interesting too. The Government also gave certain orders that Fort Carlton was to be occupied, they withdrew arms from the forces at Duck Lake and that they obtained—as appears from the annual report of Col. Houghton—information from him with reference to their division in the country. These reports as to matters taking place during the course of last summer would be important in order that we might see what the condition of things has been in the country for the past few months. There have been, if I am rightly informed, reports from others, among them from Mr. Stephenson. I presume there is also a report from Mr. Burgess, after his return from the North-West, as I perceive that he was interviewed, as is the modern phrase, and gave some information on that country. I dare say that Mr. Schmidt, the Government employé who was chairman of one of the first meetings attended by Riel, may have supplied reports. I have no doubt there are also some reports from Mr. Dewdney, the Lieutenant-Governor, and I should think there would be some from the late Dominion Lands Commissioner, and from Mr. Pearce. I have been told that there was a letter from Colonel Strange, giving his opinion of the condition of things last fall; I received a communication to that effect a moment ago. Then the North-West corps and companies, I think, were disbanded by order of the 13th of September last, or thereabouts. The reports and orders upon which these North-West corps and companies were disbanded would also be interesting.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The papers connected with the half-breeds, and their claims in relation to the surveys, which I had forgotten that the hon. gentleman had particularly referred to, are now in course of preparation.

Mr. IVES. It strikes me that it is barely possible for us to give this matter just a little too much prominence. Of course, I would not for a moment belittle the gravity or the importance of the situation in the North-West. But it seems to me that if the people of this country should spend as large a proportion of their time in discussing this matter as we are in this House, it would be a very serious thing for the Dominion. Now, we should not forget that with our neighbors in the United States, a difficulty on the frontier and the loss of ten or a dozen lives is, I won't say of daily, but certainly of monthly occurrence, and it does not create as much excitement there as it does here. It does seem to me that while the Government should take every means to quell the uprising, Parliament, by devoting so much of its time and giving so much prominence to the matter, may impress the world, and intending immigrants particularly, with a false idea of the position of matters in the North-West. I know, as a matter of fact,