

Canadian--were springing up around the different posts, the tenders should be asked at the post where required, and only for the quantity there needed. He had occasion to call attention to the enormous amount--nearly \$130,000--paid to this firm, for the current year before the last, and he trusted that, while this force was costing the very large amount of nearly \$1,000 per man, that every opportunity would be given to our own people to furnish supplies.

MR. CAMPBELL said he had seen in the papers a statement that the commanders of this, and the United States forces, had agreed to combine to put down Sitting Bull. This appeared to be a very extraordinary negotiation. Besides, a member of the Government had gone to Washington last summer to negotiate with a foreign power about Sitting Bull, and he thought that this was also an extraordinary proceeding. He had never heard of such a thing before.

MR. McCARTHY said that in the absence of the hon. member for North Simcoe he wished to draw the attention of the hon. the Premier to a matter in which both the hon. member for North Simcoe and himself had taken a little interest last Session. This related to the route by which the Mounted Police had been sent out to the North-West. Last Session this question had been brought up on two occasions, and the hon. the First Minister had stated that, as far as he knew, the Collingwood line was receiving a larger portion of the public patronage in that direction than the Sarnia line, and he had promised them that in future these two lines should be placed on a footing of equality. It appeared that up to that time some \$9,000--if he remembered right--had been paid to the Sarnia line by the Government, \$3,348 in one and \$6,452 in another year, against \$1,228 to the Collingwood line. He found in the Public Accounts since brought down, that J. H. Beattie & Co. received for transporting men, horses and stores \$1,752, and that the Windsor and Lake Superior Line, which he understood represented the old line of J. H. Beattie & Co., \$1,048.37, making

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all together \$2,795.46, while so far as he could observe not a solitary dollar had been paid to the Collingwood Line. He had understood the hon. the First Minister to say last year, that he had already given instructions to have this matter corrected, but the policy of the Government seemed to be unchanged in this direction. Certainly it seemed to be exceedingly unjust that the shortest route--he did not find that it was any cheaper, though certainly it was not more expensive--should be so completely ignored as had been the case by the present Administration.

MR. MACKENZIE said he really did not know anything about the transport of any portion of the Force. He was not aware that any men were sent up, but he would make enquiry of the Minister who had charge of this matter. If notice had been given of this question, he would have obtained the information.

MR. McCARTHY: The items are contained in the Public Accounts, page 117.

MR. MACKENZIE said that he would enquire into the matter. There was no truth in the alleged agreement of Col. McLeod with the United States commanders about joint action with regard to Sitting Bull. Nothing of the kind had been done. This was, of course, a mere newspaper rumour.

MR. CURRIER said it was desirable that these men should be well equipped, as they might be called upon at any moment to act with reference to Indians, who, he believed, would yet give a great deal of trouble. He did not think the sum set down in the estimates was excessive, if the horses were fed as they ought to be. It seemed to him, however, that oats might be raised in the vicinity of the stations to feed the horses, instead of bringing oats such long distances.

MR. TROW said that, in the course of a year or two, provender for horses would be raised in the vicinity of the posts, and steps had already been taken by Captain French to raise oats.