

the strongest way, the white settlers who are going into that country, that they must take care of themselves to a great extent, and to take care of themselves the exertion of that prudence, restraint, and self-command ought to be enjoined upon them, and by pursuing a course entirely different from that pursued by the adventurous person who has settled among the Indians, and whose conduct or cruelty has provoked some of the Indian difficulties. While we must give some reasonable protection, and I do not say that the mounted police ought to be disbanded, we have to avoid giving people who are settling in the North-West the idea that a very large and continually increasing, expensive force is to be maintained there at the expense of the Dominion. At the earliest moment we ought to adopt some arrangement for the utilisation of local forces, for the organisation of the militia, and for the organisation under, perhaps, a special system of officering, which should give some special advantages, incurring, perhaps, a great expense, but giving a more efficient force, not merely in soldiery purposes, but also in those higher elements to which I have referred, self-restraint and moderation in the use of power. But to control the North-West by a large and extensive force of this kind would be an undertaking which I, for one, would shrink from contemplating.

Sir John A. Macdonald then replied to me:

"I quite agree with my hon. friend in much he has said. Of course a force of 500 men can act as peace officers, serve processes, take prisoners and guard the courts, and do the whole of the work that has been done by the peace officers that are now scattered over the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. 500 men is not too large a force for this purpose. The hon. gentleman is quite right in saying that eventually that country should be organised under a special system, like a militia force, so as to perform the duty of keeping the peace and, when called upon, to aid the civil power, just as they are in the rest of the Dominion, but at this moment I am afraid that as between the white men and the Indian, the Indian will get the worst of it, perhaps one danger as great as any in connection with the militia is that of the too active interference of the ordinary magi tray of the country. I might mention one instance of that kind which occurred. There was a rumor arrived at Prince Albert that an outbreak of Indians had taken place to the south, and one magistrate gave a requisition calling out a newly formed militia company, and they started fully armed to suppress the infant rebellion. They went down, and if they had unfortunately come in contact with the Indians we might have had an Indian war. Luckily, however, they were met by an officer of the police force, who remonstrated with them, sent them back, and quieted what was only after all an Indian riot . . . and we must trust very much to the reports of the officers on that subject; and I have every confidence that with this additional force of police, that the country may be reasonably expected to be as quiet for the next ten years as it has been for the last ten years."

Now, you will observe that that only three years after that, and before the outbreak, the hon. gentleman decided that the country that he expected would be adequately served for the next ten years by these—and, as I shall show presently, by a lesser force—will require, irrespective of the outbreak, more than double the amount of 500 men which he thought adequate three years ago. I said I would show that the hon. gentleman's contemplation was not a continuance even of a force of 500 men. In answer to my hon. friend from East York (Mr. Mackenzie), then representing the County of Lambton, the hon. gentleman said:

"I am quite satisfied that the addition to the force will add to the safety and security of the country, and will give greater assurance to those who go to make it their home, and when the settlement of the country, which now promises to be very rapid, takes place, necessities for keeping up the force may be removed or at least diminished. Of course, it can very readily be diminished at any time, it being necessary."

So there you see that the hon. gentleman thought he had reached the maximum, and that as the country settled up he would be able to diminish the force and even to disband it altogether. Instead of that, the hon. gentleman's expectations having been realised as to the settling up of the country, his expectations as to the police force before the recent outbreak were so far falsified that he requires more than double the force. Then, once again, my hon. friend said, at a subsequent stage of the debate of the 11th April:

"There will be, of course, at Calgary, at Edmonton and at Prince Albert, a certain number of men, but as much as possible they will be concentrated."

"Mr. MACKENZIE. What are they to be sent to Prince Albert for? Surely there is population enough there to maintain order without the police being sent for?"

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. If my hon. friend could only see the complaints of settlers when there is even a suggestion of moving any of the police force, he could quite understand the difficulty and the sense of helplessness and defencelessness that comes over settlers when they go

Mr. BLAKE.

to any place where there is no police force. It gives them great confidence to have those men stationed near them, but when the country is settled to a greater extent than at present, that necessity will be done away with, and concentration will be carried out."

Here the hon. gentleman contemplating a diminution and not an increase of the force; its concentration as the locality settled up, believing that the local service in each locality would supply the want in the outlying parts at that time requiring a detachment of police. My hon. friend from East York said:

The hon. gentleman must not pay too much attention to representations from well peopled localities. I can recollect very well the difficulty I had in withdrawing the volunteers from Winnipeg. We were threatened with all sorts of calamities if we did so. We did it nevertheless, and no harm came of it. I observed some time ago that at Prince Albert they had men enough to form a volunteer company. I do not know whether there are or not, but a company was formed, and I cannot think that a community or that size requires the rest of the Dominion to maintain a police force for their protection. I hope the hon. gentleman will reconsider that, for if the force is to be enlarged for the purpose of placing guards at places such as that it is absurd, and an entirely wrong policy. The police force, as I understand it, has to maintain order in outstanding districts where there is not a large resident population, but should have no occupation in populous places like Prince Albert.

Then the right hon. gentleman said:

"It is quite true that where there is a large population as at Prince Albert or any other place they ought to be able to raise and organise a corps of citizen soldiers for the protection of the place, but at present I do not think it would be safe to risk volunteer corps coming into possible collision with the Indians. I think militia forces should be carefully handled."

Then the hon. gentleman repeats the statement which he made in a former debate and which I read as to a formidable rising. Now, Sir, I read this in order that the House may see what the purposes were, so short a time ago as 1882, which were expected to be answered by the Mounted Police force in the North-West, and for what purpose it was expected that force would be adequate; and you find it was not the question of protecting the proprietors of ranches from their cattle being stolen, it was the question of protection of the outlying settlements, particularly of dealing with the Indians. You find the statement of the hon. gentleman that 500 would be adequate for the purpose, and that as the population went on, the more the people, the fewer the special force of police that would be required. You find the hon. gentleman to-day, three years later, coming down to us, having then acknowledged the force of the observations as to the course he ought to take with respect to the settlers in the North West and the organisation of the militia—coming down to us, I say, and telling us that he desires to more than double the force. You do not find that his statement is as to Indians or is as to outlying settlements; it is cattle and not men who require protection now. I adhere to the view which I stated in 1882, and to which the hon. gentleman then gave his assent, that in considering this very large question of our management of the North West Territories we must take into account the absolute necessity of encouraging and stimulating the people of that country to engage in the formation of those local corps to discharge a large part of the business. I am not at all saying, any more than I said in 1882, that the Mounted Police should be disbanded. I am not at all saying that their number should be reduced. I am not even arguing, at this moment, that if you were to take the outbreak into account the hon. gentleman's proposition may not be reasonable one. But he declines to do so, and says: I do not take the outbreak into account; I do not submit it with respect to the outbreak, or with respect to the altered state of circumstances; you have to deal with it irrespective of those facts. I am, therefore, handling it for the moment on his own lines and on his own ground. I am not negating his proposal; I am merely pointing out to what it leads. I am showing that in 1882 the plan led to an indefinite increase of numbers, and that we ought to direct attention to the formation of local corps. The hon. gentle-