

Albert. I do not think that any misconception should go abroad, and I might be excused at feeling a little hurt at such a misinterpretation of our Premier's words. I may say that I do not think the time has come when the Government will be able to retrench or lessen the expenditure in maintaining the Indians of the North-West. I think rather the time has arrived when they will be obliged to increase the expenditure, for a time at any rate. I believe that country can be made in a short time and at a little expense, able to maintain the Indians very easily, and I believe it will be done by making them herdsmen. There is no class of food that can be raised more easily in the North-West, not only on the plains, but in the mountains; in the Touchwood Hills, at Fort Pelly, and along the Saskatchewan, where there are reservations and blocks of timber, cattle could live all the year around, and could be raised very cheaply. I believe that if the Government had large establishments in different portions of that country for raising cattle, they could feed the Indians more cheaply than at present, and they could employ the young Indian lads who have not been used to hunting, in tending and herding the cattle; and if the Government gave them a certain interest in the herd, they would teach the Indians by degrees to support themselves by raising cattle. I believe they would fall into that kind of life more easily than into ploughing or raising grain. I believe the young Indian can be taught any trade. The establishment at Sault Ste. Marie has done a great deal of good in teaching young Indians the ordinary trades, and enabling them like other men to earn their own living. If more money were spent in that way, I believe the Indians of the North-West would soon get into the way of supporting themselves, so that they would cost very little to the country.

Mr. WATSON. I am sure the people of Manitoba will feel grateful to the Premier when they hear that he is about to establish a body of Mounted Police to protect the settlers along the frontier. But I think there is too much stress laid on the fact that a few horses or cattle have been stolen. The discussion on that subject to-day may intimidate some people from settling along the frontier for fear of horse or cattle thieves. I think there are very few instances of horses or cattle having been stolen from the Canadian side of the boundary—not more than two or three in the course of a year; and we know that such things happen in the interior and in the other Provinces. The First Minister truly stated that the Province of Manitoba is not able to maintain a Mounted Police force out of the pittance it gets from the federal authorities, because it has no internal revenue of its own; I suppose a parental hand will continue to guide the affairs of that Province with reference to the resolution before the House. So far as my observations have gone in the North-West, they satisfy me that it is of much more importance for the Government to consider the advisability of forming volunteer forces throughout Manitoba and the Territories than to increase the Mounted Police force. The hon. First Minister has stated, and stated truly, that the Indians get very bold when they are in a majority, and that when there is not a large force available to put down depredation, they commit them, and then retire to their reserves; they make demands on the settlers with which the settlers have to comply, or suffer. Now, I have made the calculation that according to the cost of maintaining the volunteers in the east, a company of volunteers could be sustained in the North-West, at almost the cost of maintaining one policeman; and a company of volunteers would certainly strike more terror into the Indians than one mounted policeman. Too much cannot be said in praise of the Mounted Police for what they have done in protecting settlers and maintaining law and order throughout the

North-West for years past; but if the Government had kept in existence the volunteer companies that were in existence in the North-West, I believe the unfortunate affair that has just taken place would not have happened. However, that is past. We cannot praise too highly the volunteer forces that were organised in Manitoba at a moment's notice and went to the front. The county I have the honor to represent furnished Major Boulton's scouts, who have done as good service in this outbreak as the Mounted Police; in fact, I believe they were more active than any force of Mounted Police in the west. If that company had been organised and drilled they could have gone to the front with a great deal more certainty of doing good service for their country, although they have done everything that could be expected of them; still, it is not fair to call on volunteers who have not drilled or had practice at rifle shooting to go and face such good marksmen as the hunters on the plains of the North-West. I agree with the member for Northumberland (Mr. Mitchell) that when this matter is before the House the policy of the Government with regard to the Indians should be laid before the House. In my opinion the Indians should be compelled to stay on their reserves; and as there is now little or no game in the North-West that cannot be secured with shot-guns. I believe the Indians should be deprived of rifles, and furnished with muzzle-loading shot-guns instead. I believe also that their horses should be taken away from them, and that they should be furnished with oxen instead. If that were done, the Indians would not be so likely to leave their reserves and go about the country as they do now. There is no doubt, judging from the reports in the press, that some of the Indian bands have not been treated as well as they might be. Probably the Government cannot be blamed for that; but through their officials the Indians do not receive the full value of the money spent annually for the purpose of supporting them. For instance, at different times the Indians have been furnished with poor implements, and with provisions which have been stated as unfit even for Indians to eat, although the country has paid the full price for good articles. It is very difficult to keep the Indians on their reserves to cultivate their lands, and it is a very difficult question for the Government to consider how they can keep them quiet and sustain them most cheaply. Instead of spending the enormous amount of money that is spent in maintaining volunteer forces in the east, I think the policy of the Government should be to have as large a body of volunteers as possible in Manitoba and the North-West, the only part of the Dominion that especially requires an armed force. It appears to me that the money that is spent on military matters is spent too much in towns and cities. Of course, the hon. Minister of Militia would not be able to visit the companies, as they would be situated, more than probably, in the remote parts of Manitoba where they would be more effective in cases of emergency; he would not be able to take mess with the officers. Too much money is spent in keeping up an army of officers, and not giving attention to the rank and file. It has always been, ever since I have had the honor of a seat in this House, the policy of the Opposition to grant better pay to the rank and file, and prevent the Government spending so much money on the officers and on the mess room.

Mr. BOWELL. The officers pay for their own mess.

Mr. WATSON. The officers are better paid than the privates.

Mr. BOWELL. So are you better paid than a laborer.

Mr. WATSON. Well, I am a laborer, and I think I earn all that I receive.

Mr. BOWELL. That is questionable