

our active militia who are the backbone of the country, Although our militia may not, in this House, meet with that consideration which they are entitled to, and although their services have not been called on of late, yet we must look back on their past history, from the war of 1812 to the North-west rebellion of 1885, and consider what valiant services they have rendered to this colony. On the occasion of Her Majesty's Jubilee our militia, as loyal British subjects, as descendants of men who have fought for the Crown in the past, and as men who, at the present day are ready to fight for the Crown again if ever unfortunately they should be called upon to do so again, they desire to have some idea as to what action will be taken in regard to their services in England in regard to the jubilee. I may call attention to the fact, that already five of the colonies have voted money to send their military representatives to England, and even the little island of Jamaica, with a very small population, has given 9,500 pounds sterling to send over a force. I regret very much that my friend the hon. Minister of Militia has suffered so much in the recent railway accident that he is unable to be present. I feel that whatever I have to say, I must say it in the most delicate way, because I would be far from wanting to offend that hon. gentleman, or to lead him to think that I would be trenching on his duties or responsibilities. I wish to guard myself in every way from creating the impression that I am finding any fault with his administration, or that I wish to take away from him the credit of what I am sure he would do if he were present. I have no doubt at all that Sir Richard Cartwright, his representative for the time being, as a loyal British subject, and as one proud of his distinguished history, will do everything that can be done in the interests of the country in connection with this matter. In a certain sense, I speak on the floor of this House for the militiamen of the country, and I see other officers opposite who have also an interest in the militia and who have done good service. I say that we do not want to be behind the other colonies, and that we should not ask our militia force to go over on the strength of public subscriptions.

The people of Canada expect hereafter to rival the other nations of the world, and we do not want it to be supposed that in this country we have to go around, hat in hand, to collect money to send a body of troops over. I do not think the Government should be extravagant; the people of Canada do not wish their money to be thrown away; and the militia do not wish to embarrass the Government. All they want is that Canada should be properly represented. For my own part, I think we should send over a small column, in which would be represented all the corps of the country. I have no desire myself to go to England or to parade myself before Europe. I am not coveting or seeking any honour or position.

Mr. DOMVILLE.

I simply wish to see that we as a young nation, with 40,000 men under arms, shall be represented by such a body of men that when they march in the parade the people will say, "There goes Canada, a country that is now producing gold in British Columbia, silver in the Slocan and gold in the Yukon." I have no desire to take up the time of the House, and I would ask the acting Minister of Militia to pardon me for bringing this matter up in this way, and to kindly foreshadow something of what is going to be done in this matter. I believe I voice the sentiment of the militia and the people of Canada when I say that Canada is able to send over a small force and to do it properly.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. member has made a speech without concluding with a motion.

Mr. DOMVILLE. I beg to move, seconded by Mr. Lemieux, that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Mr. Speaker, as a sequel to what has been said by the hon. member for King's (Mr. Domville), I would like to read, for the information of the acting Minister of Militia, the following letter:

Dear Sir,—You know that we are making great preparations for the Jubilee celebration in Montreal. We wish to organize excursions from all parts of Canada and the United States. The railways are ready, but are waiting for the proclamation of the Federal Government fixing the day of the celebration, which is to be the same here as in England, June the 22nd, in order to announce the reduction in fares and the dates of the excursions. Please, therefore, urge the Government to fix the day and to issue its proclamation. We are stopped in our work, in the meantime, though there is not an instant to be lost to complete our organization.

This letter is sent by the president of the Jubilee committee in Montreal.

Mr. PRIOR. Mr. Speaker, I think every hon. member of the House will be glad that the hon. member for King's (Mr. Domville) has brought this matter up, and I think it is right that a word should be said on this side of the House; for to my mind, this is a question that politics should not at all interfere with, but a question of the honour of Canada, in which both Conservatives and Liberals should take an interest. I think Canada has to-day the best chance she has ever had since confederation of making a name for herself in the old country. If a good regiment of Canadian militia, that would be representative of this country, were sent home on this occasion, it would do more to advertise Canada than any amount of money spent on agents. The regiment would be seen by millions of people, not only from Great Britain, but from all the other colonies; and I think that any gentleman who knows the Canadian militia, and has seen them in training, must admit that there are no finer troops to be