

possible precaution has been taken so far as regards arming the troops and forwarding them as rapidly as possible to where they are required. I do not consider it advisable to indicate more explicitly the movements of the troops and what measures have been taken to provide them with arms and ammunition.

Mr. BLAKE. I was about to make some enquiries of the hon. gentleman as to the movements of the troops and as to arms and ammunition, because we have statements made in the newspapers upon that subject; and it seems to be somewhat difficult to understand how it would be inexpedient, when such reports are published, that we should know what the facts are. But I entirely recognise the measure of the responsibility of the Administration in an emergency of this kind, and at all events to-day I shall not press, after what the hon. gentleman has said, for any answer, although my own judgment does not permit me to see where difficulty would arise in answering some of the questions which the hon. gentleman has excluded from consideration by his reply. But there is certainly a statement which I think ought to be made by the Minister, and which should have been made without its being asked for. Between 12 and 1 o'clock on Saturday morning announcements were made by the Government as to the number of the troops and the quarters from which the troops were ordered for service. Since that time it is everybody's news that more troops have been ordered out. Surely there can be no inconvenience in stating at all events what more troops have been ordered out.

Mr. CARON. I may state, in answer to the hon. gentleman's enquires, that a detachment of 100 men belonging to "B" Battery and a detachment of 100 men belonging to "A" Battery have been ordered. Also 85 men belonging to the "C" Infantry School stationed at Toronto; also 250 men belonging to the second battalion of the "Queen's Own," and 250 men belonging to the "10th Royals" of Toronto. The formation of a provisional battalion has been authorised, to be commanded by Lieut.-Col. Williams, one of our colleagues in this House.

Mr. BLAKE. Of what strength?

Mr. CARON. About 340 men. The 35th Battalion has also been called out for service, under the command of Lieut.-Col. O'Brien, another member of this House, and Lieut.-Col. Tyrwhitt, another member of this House, goes as Major in the same battalion.

Mr. BLAKE. Of what strength?

Mr. CARON. A total strength of 360 men. Capt. Todd has been authorised to organise a company, composed of crack shots, sharpshooters, to move forward immediately. The company will comprise 43 men. This makes the total force, including officers, of 1,514 men. These are the orders which have been given in so far as troops coming from the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec are concerned. It has also been deemed advisable to authorise the formation of the following corps in the North-West and Manitoba: Lieut.-Col. Scott is authorised to organise a company at Regina, 40 men. Col. Wood, is authorised to organise a company at Birtle. Lieut.-Col. Osborne Smith is authorised to organise 8 companies, 336 men. Capt. Stewart, as I have had occasion to state to the House, has been authorised to organise a corps of mounted rangers in the North-West; one company at Calgary, about 42 men; Lieut.-Col. Boulton, one mounted corps, 60 men; Lieut.-Col. Gisbourne, one company at Battleford, 40 men; and Lieut.-Col. Horton has been authorised to organise a body of twelve cavalry scouts who have been much needed and who will no doubt prove very useful in that country. Lieut.-Col. Scott, who is also a member of this House, is organising a battalion composed of six companies, which will give about 253 men. Major General Strange is authorised to organise a mounted corps,

Mr. CARON.

the strength of which I have not yet heard. In giving the battalions ordered for actual service I omitted to state that the 65th Battalion, commanded by my friend and colleague, Lieut.-Col. Ouimet, has been ordered to keep itself in readiness.

Mr. BLAKE. What strength?

Mr. CARON. I cannot exactly say, as the return is not in; but I should fancy between 300 and 350 men. The last muster of the battalion in Montreal showed about 350 men as efficient. I should fancy that would be about the number that would go to the front.

Mr. GAULT. What kind of arms will our men have who go to the front? I understand that the rebels are supplied with the best Winchester and Remington repeating rifles, whereas our men are going up there with the old Sniders. I was at the drill hall in Montreal on Saturday night, and I may say that you can get 2,000 men there prepared to go to the North-West whenever they are ordered. I hope that the Militia Department here will see that our men are armed with proper rifles—rifles that will carry eleven or twelve hundred yards, and none of these short range guns, because all will depend on the use of long range arms.

Mr. CARON. In answer to the hon. gentleman I may say that we have furnished very good arms to the force we are now sending up, and we will continue to serve out to them the very best arms that can be procured, considering the short notice at which we were called upon.

Mr. BLAKE. I may say that though I may differ in judgment from hon. gentlemen I shall not to-day make any remark or draw any inference from the public documents which I have beside me as to the character of the arms. I shall only say that I hold hon. gentlemen personally as well as politically responsible, if, at whatever expense it may cost, the force that may go to the North-West are not supplied with the very best arms that it is possible to procure. I maintain that no matter what the condition of things, no matter what it may cost, no matter what express trains you may require to take them, no matter through what territory they may require to go, it would be nothing less than murder to send them up with anything but the best arms.

Mr. O'BRIEN. I wish to remark for the information of hon. gentlemen who may not be practically acquainted with the subject, that I do not believe that there is practically a better rifle than the Snider-Enfield. I am perfectly satisfied in my own mind that that is the case, and to-day many military men think that for all practical purposes, for all general purposes, it is equal to the Martini. It is an unsettled point whether there is a better rifle than it, but I am perfectly satisfied that it is as good an arm as we could put in the hands of our men.

Mr. GAULT. There is a gentleman at Medicine Hat whom I know very well—Thomas Tweed—who has gathered a company of 100 men. He was on the Red River expedition, and is a smart, active man, and I hope and trust the Government will give him sufficient arms to arm the people around him with the best arms they have.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I think the hon. gentleman opposite did not exercise a wise discretion in making the personal attack on the Government which he has just made—saying that he would hold them personally and politically responsible. What right has he to hold us personally and politically responsible? It is mere impudence on the part of the hon. gentleman.

Mr. BLAKE. What I said was that if the Government did not at whatever expense and cost provide the volunteers that are going to the North-West with arms of the very best quality I would hold them politically and personally respon-