

vegetables and provide for their cattle and themselves; but the great duty which the Government had to perform was to build the Canadian Pacific Railway.

MR. THOMPSON (Cariboo) said he was rather surprised to hear some of the remarks of hon. gentlemen who ought to be better informed as to the cost of keeping men and horses in countries like the North-West. He had had some experience in this matter, and he considered that to keep 330 men with their horses for \$306,000 a year was very cheap. It was only \$450 a head for a man and a horse. He thought the force was underpaid rather than overpaid. He hoped the day was not far distant when the railway would be built, and there would be no occasion for that force; but, in the meantime, while they had thousands of Indians to deal with, who might, perhaps, be friendly, it was absolutely necessary that they should have some force to preserve good government in their territory. In case of an Indian war, the amount of \$306,000 might have to be multiplied ten times. There might be items in connection with which extravagance took place. It was very likely that there would be speculations and rings formed for furnishing fodder and other things, but while hay was only costing them \$15 per ton, he was accustomed to pay \$100 per ton for a good quality of hay. On the whole, he thought it was absolutely necessary that this force should be kept in proper order, and should be well paid to do their work. If a policeman had to ride many miles to put down an Indian raid, his horse must be well fed. These gentlemen, like the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Mitchell), who lived down by the sea, knew nothing except what related to fish and coal. He thought the item should be passed unanimously.

MR. MITCHELL said the hon. gentleman had based his argument on the idea that they were dealing with expenditure in the mountains of Cariboo, instead of the plains of the North-West, where horses could feed all the year. He did not object to any reasonable expenditure to maintain a

force on a proper system, but he objected to the enormous expenditure which the Public Accounts showed to have been made. There was an amount of \$3,679 charged for postages, telegrams and stationery. He should like to know who was paid for these telegrams, and if there was any telegraph line there except the line under the control of the Government?

MR. CARTWRIGHT said the telegrams were usually sent by way of the United States, and there had been a great deal of telegraphing from Fort Benton.

MR. MITCHELL said he thought the charge of \$1,275 for stationery was enormous.

MR. SCHULTZ said that, as the Government would not probably force the vote to-night, an opportunity would be given for further discussion of this important matter, and he would confine his remarks to endeavour to elicit information from the Minister of Finance. It would be remembered that the amount expended, or rather paid, to R. G. Baker & Co. for forage last year was \$38,000, while the amount paid to the same firm this year was over \$62,000, while other amounts were paid to A. G. B. Bannatyne, and others, for forage, as shown by the Public Accounts. Now, when this item came up in Committee last year, he (Mr. Schultz) had demurred at the amount of \$38,000 having been paid, and the Minister of Justice then expressed his own surprise at the large amount, and said that he was in correspondence with the officers of the force with a view to its reduction in future. Now, instead of being reduced, it was largely increased; and, before consenting to the item passing, he desired to know what portion of this amount was for hay alone, and in what manner tenders had been asked for the supplying of it. If the tenders called for the furnishing of the whole amount required, then it was easy to see that, as this firm of R. G. Baker & Co. was the only one large enough to undertake it, that they could have it at their own price. Now, while it was a fact that settlements of our own people—discharged policemen, Métis and