

law and in excess of the powers that the law gave. I say that the hon. gentleman's duty to Parliament and the respect that he ought to owe to Parliament indicated an entirely different course, and that his duty was not to violate the law, not to act in excess of the law unless necessity quired. There was no necessity, because we were here, prepared to listen to the hon. gentleman's proposals. We proceeded with other Bills certainly of minor consequence. We passed a Bill, and His Excellency came down and gave the Royal Assent to it, to appoint a gentleman to fill your chair in cases of emergency. That was done, but the enlistment without the authority of law of 230 men was not thought of sufficient consequence to propose to us for legislation, and to invite the three branches of the legislature so to act that the law might not be violated. I say, therefore, that in this respect the hon. gentleman has too long deferred bringing before the House the consideration of this question. When the hon. gentleman does bring it before us, he brings it with explanations extremely inadequate. As far as I could gather, it is a question of flocks and herds, it is a question which the hon. gentleman has put before us of proper protection to the ranches and those who have placed stock upon the ranches in the southern portion of those territories; and a few words upon that subject and upon the difficulties that we have with reference to the people on the border, and the horse thieves and cattle thieves who take the cattle across, and the greater difficulty that our people have in obtaining restoration of their cattle, are deemed sufficient to warrant a proposal for the increase of the annual expenditure of the country by a sum exceeding half a million of dollars. This is the hon. gentleman's explanation; this is the stress of his statement. Surely some further statement was required. Surely, when the hon. gentleman's own proposals a few weeks ago were so much less than those now submitted, some further statement, some further detail, some further explanation, some further calculation and elaboration on this subject were required before the House should be asked to take even this step on this occasion. Turn back to 1882. At that time the force was only 500 men; it is now to be increased to very nearly 1,100; it is now to be very nearly quadrupled, and that in a very few years. What were the statements which, in the year 1882, were made when we were asked to make this increase? On what grounds did the hon. gentleman then propose it? On what grounds did he advocate it? What difficulties were suggested to him, what proposals were made to him, and what were the expectations he held out to the House and to the country as to a further increase or an approaching diminution of this force? The hon. gentleman brought up the subject on the 24th March, 1882, now just three years ago, and he said:

"It is found, however, that its strength is overtaxed. Again and again the commissioner in charge of the force has represented that they are insufficient for the duties demanded of them, especially on the frontier, where, on more than one occasion, there has been great hazard of a collision with large forces of hungry and, therefore, discontented Indians. By a mixture of courage and discretion, these occasions have passed by without collision; yet I need not remind the committee of the continuous danger which exists of collision, and the necessity of endeavoring to avoid it by all means in our power. There seems to be a general consensus of opinion that the strong pressure brought to bear on the Government and on Parliament by the officers in command should result in an increase in the force. So long as the Indians were alone with a few Government officials and persons of a superior class, they were kept under control; but that control is passing away, as it has passed away in the United States, with the influx into the country of persons of all ranks and all degrees of intelligence and morals; and, as in the Western States, there is great danger—happily we have avoided it hitherto,—of collision between the Indians and the white settler going in there and thinking that he can treat these wild sons of the prairie as he would a fellow white man. The commissioner has reported again and again on that point."

Then he proceeds to read, not the report of the commissioner but some other references as to the dangers of collisions with the Indian tribes.

"It is well known, says the hon. gentleman, resuming his own argument, that, while there has been no actual outbreak, while through combined courage and discretion an outbreak has been prevented, yet, I regret to say, on two or three occasions the forces of Indians were so overwhelming and their conduct so threatening to the handful of police that, *ex necessitate*, they were obliged to yield to the demands, sometimes insolently and arrogantly, with the consciousness of power pressed upon them by the starving Indians surrounding them, of course, the less these facts are known the better, but I take the responsibility of stating, on the part of the Government, that they believe it is absolutely necessary to increase this force."

Then my hon. friend the member for Huron (Sir Richard Cartwright) alluded to the very topic which the hon. gentleman has brought up to-day as the ground for doubling up the force. My hon. friend from Huron said:

"In connection with this, I might say it is quite clear that very great care will have to be taken in granting pasturage lands to the numerous candidates now applying for them. It is a very serious element in consideration of the policy of granting those lands, if a force of troops should be required for the purpose of protecting cattle on the ranches; and I think, for that reason and others, that very considerable care will have to be exercised in granting the numerous applications which are being made for those pasturage lands. I do not in the least degree object to such portions of the country suited to the purpose being applied for, although it is provided that the Government retains the right of retaining portions of the land if found fit for agricultural purposes; but I think it would be an extraordinary course if we should place ranches in the midst of more or less turbulent tribes, who will be more tempted to commit depredations on cattle placed before their eyes than on any other form of property."

The First Minister did not then think the cattle ranch question had much to do with the matter, for he said, in reply to my hon. friend:

"I feel very glad to have an opportunity of speaking on those points, although the subject of cattle ranches is not immediately germane to the motion before the committee."

But you have heard how germane it was; you hear how germane it is; because it is the cattle ranches he has brought forward as the principal reason for increasing the force, which was then 300, to about 1,100 men. He went on to discuss the question, and he pointed out his notable scheme for exchanging the Indian's Winchesters for fowling pieces; and, after a while, I took leave to make some suggestions which I think are of very considerable consequence, which were then so regarded, and upon which I think it is absolutely necessary we should now touch, in order that we may understand what is the policy and what is to be the policy of the country with reference to the means that are to be taken for the preservation of peace, order and good government in the North-West. I said:

"Taking all these circumstances into consideration, the advantages thus secured are entirely overbalanced by the other changes in circumstances, so that the force requires to be nearly doubled, and here the situation becomes serious. The hon. gentleman says we must nearly double the force. I do not know what that may mean, but it seems to me impossible to set the limits of it. On a former occasion the hon. gentleman has said that we must feed the Indians in order to keep them quiet, and it now turns out that we must keep up the mounted police in order to keep the white men quiet. I do not know how far the proposed operation of the hon. gentleman with these guileless children of the prairies may be successful. He says he thinks he will induce them, with his well known powers of persuasion, and there is no doubt he has been able to exert great influence over persons much more astute than the children of the prairies, and some of whom I have the pleasure of looking upon at this moment—I say I do not know how far this great power of persuasion may be successful with them. He says he may have convinced them that fowling pieces are necessary, but the observations he has just made indicates that he expects occasions to arise when the Indians may be supposed to pursue the larger portion of mounted policemen, and when that comes I have no doubt the Winchester rifles would be an arm much more satisfactory than that which the hon. gentleman proposes to present them with. I therefore, do not expect to hear next year of any extensive exchange made of Winchester rifles for fowling pieces, unless the hon. gentlemen should pay for the Winchester rifles about double what they are worth. It does seem to me that the proposed changes, which of course, do not involve so large an expense as they otherwise might, because the rate of pay has been very properly reduced—involve a consideration of policy which is to be adopted to have a headquarters, if it is thought necessary—and I do not say it may not be right to place so large a *proportion* of the force in different and isolated parts, as 350 or 400 men, and to leave only 150 at headquarters for the purpose of mobilisation—then I think we are engaged in dealing with the Indians in a policy which may lead us a long way in point of expense. It seems to me we have got to warn, in