

battalion, and I must draw the hon. gentleman's attention to this fact, that I ascertained, on enquiry, that if any money was to be reimbursed at all by the battalion, the municipality insisted on its being paid to the municipality, and not to the battalion.

Mr. MULOCK. Did the Department ascertain whether the men of the York-Simcoe Battalion had or had not expended certain moneys of their own in supplying themselves with necessaries in connection with the campaign?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. The application was not brought before the Department in that way at all. It was brought before the Department claiming that we should pay public money for the purpose of reimbursing the battalion for those very articles which the municipality claimed to have furnished; and, in the report submitted to me after the investigation took place, which the hon. gentleman says did not take place, the officer who acted as Major stated that the men had no claim whatever.

Mr. MULOCK. Who was that?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I am giving the statement placed in my hands by the officers of the Department.

Mr. MULOCK. Was it the Major of the regiment?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. One of the officers acting as Major in the battalion. An application was made by Lieut.-Col. O'Brien, through the proper channel, on the 2nd March, 1866, for "an allowance in lieu" of underclothing, &c., on the ground that in "all the other battalions which were engaged in the North-West the men were either provided with underclothing, &c., or received an allowance in lieu thereof," which statement is at variance with the facts. This application was replied to through the general officer commanding, on the 4th January, 1867. The officer who acted as Major stated that the men had no claim, as they had been provided for by the county, and if payment were made it should be to the municipality. Some battalions were given an allowance, but they proved that they had expended the amount for the purchase of kits for the men. The York and Simcoe Battalion does not appear to have any claim for such an allowance.

Mr. MULOCK. May I ask, is there any report from the Major to that effect?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. There must have been, because it was submitted to me in answer to the enquiry made by my hon. friend.

Mr. MULOCK. Can the report be laid before the House?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. If the hon. gentleman wishes the report, I will look into the matter and see whether it can be produced. I merely take this statement as forming part of the answer.

Mr. MULOCK. There are two Majors in the regiment. One is now in the North-West, and the other is a member of this House. I presume their reports are official, and that there is no objection to laying the report on the Table.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. If the hon. gentleman wishes, I will see if I can bring it down.

Mr. MULOCK. The reasons for my suggestion is this: there are two officers of that battalion in this House, and they, of course, would be able to verify that statement or to give the Minister correct information. I should like to know whether they concur in the report said to have been made by one of the Majors.

Mr. O'BRIEN. I am sorry to have to refer to this matter in the House, because I think it is a matter purely departmental, which ought to be dealt with by the Department. In the first place, if it was right for this allowance to have been made to any part of the force it should have been made to all alike, and no one should have been called

Sir ADOLPHE CARON.

on to make application for it. There are one or two matters I will briefly refer to, in regard to which misstatements have been made that put the Minister of Militia in a position he ought not to occupy. It is said that the pay-sheets were issued by the Department. That is not correct. None were issued by the Department. Those that were made out were obtained by the officers commanding companies, who were under the impression this allowance would be made. The reply of the Minister is not satisfactory, in my opinion. It makes no difference by whom, through whom, or at whose expense these supplies were furnished. If any of the men are entitled to compensation, all are. The case of the Minister would be much stronger if he had paid the claims of the municipalities, which he does not pretend to have done. Therefore, the position is this: that the Department have taken advantage of the liberality of the counties of York and Simcoe to escape payments which in other cases they seem to have no difficulty in making. That is not a proper position for the Government to occupy. With regard to the Major spoken of, I can only assume, from the circumstances, that he acted upon representations made by Col. Windham, who commanded the York portion of the battalion, and who probably did, upon being asked, make the answer referred to. If the Minister wished to obtain proper and direct information in the matter he should have taken a direct course, and instead of asking the Major—

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I did not ask the Major; I got the report from the Major General.

Mr. O'BRIEN. The proper course would have been to ask me, and not to have taken a hearsay statement from the Major, who may or may not have been acquainted with the facts. The facts are these, and I earnestly ask the Minister of Militia to reconsider the case, as it is due to himself and the Government he should. In the first place, when we left home, we never expected, and I do not think any of the men expected, to get payment for the clothing they had furnished themselves—that is to say, the articles furnished outside the ordinary issue of the Government. The county council of Simcoe very liberally furnished us with some articles, in value about one-third of what appears to have been paid out to the men by the Government. The county of York also gave their men something, in value, perhaps, about the same amount. When we came back, we found that the men of the Queen's Own and the 10th were signing pay-sheets issued by the Department, and were about to get certain money in compensation for clothing. It occurred to us, that if the 10th and the Queen's Own, who stood in the same position as we, because they had been assisted in their outfit by the city of Toronto, were entitled to an allowance, we were also entitled to it. It did not occur to us that any difficulty would be made in granting this allowance, because our friends in the county had assisted the men in obtaining an outfit. I spoke to several gentlemen connected with the Department, and their answer was, in the first instance, of course all will be treated alike. I naturally communicated that information to those interested. I told them I had no doubt payment would be made, and they, on their own responsibility, without instructions from me or the Department, issued those pay-sheets, and I wish it to be understood that the Minister is not responsible in any way for the issue of the pay-sheets. Subsequently the matter was referred to the Claims Commission. I said to the Department, this was not a matter for reference to that commission. Either the Department ought to have issued the allowance or it ought not; it was purely a departmental matter. The answer of the Minister is not satisfactory, because he has not shown any substantial difference in the position of the men of one part of the force compared with that of the men of the other part. It does not matter