

instead of the Mounted Police the Government should create or augment a regular force under the rules and discipline of a regular army and under the command of regular officers. I have been informed by parties who are competent to judge of such matters that the Mounted Police might be more efficient if it were under the control of the Militia Department, and I can understand that readily, because in the Militia Department we have regular officers who belong to the military profession, whereas in the Department of the Interior, under whose control the Mounted Police are placed, we have only civilians: so that the highest authority being vested in the Minister of the Interior and his orders not going through superior officers, as in the case of the Militia Department, the proper control and action of a regular officer is not felt, which I think is a disadvantage.

HON. MR. HAYTHORNE—I would like the Minister to state expressly whether the Mounted Police were immediately under command of the Major-General, when he made his appearance on the field?

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—Yes, they were. The Mounted Police, at a certain stage in the operations in the North-West—I think after the engagement at Fish Creek, and before that at Batoche—were put under the control of the commander of the forces there. We passed a Bill for that purpose and gave the officers of the Mounted Police the same comparative rank in the army. The whole force was put under the control of the Major-General, and he had command of them as completely as he had command of any other portion of the troops: so that in that respect they were soldiers. The Mounted Police had done good service in the North-West, and I was anxious that it should not go to the country that the hon. member for DeSjla-berry thought differently. I have again and again heard—and I am sure members of this House have seen frequently—encomiums on the Mounted Police for their efficiency, not with reference to the recent disturbances, but with reference to the protection of settlers during the last three or four years—with reference to Indian troubles which were dreaded by

the settlers—and I have seen it asserted more than once in letters from the North-West that people could not live in that country, were it not for the Mounted Police. Then they have been of immense value in preventing the sale of liquor. They have done a great deal of duty in that way and in enforcing law and order on the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. They have been of great value as policemen proper in arresting prisoners, and looking after marauders from the United States, and after offenders, such as cattle stealers, bringing them down to trial and taking them afterwards great distances to jails to which they were confined for punishment. In every way that policemen could be useful, and in many ways that no men but Mounted Police could have been of use, they have been of service. So I think the country is very much indebted to that branch of the service for the security which has so long obtained in the North-West. That they have in any degree provoked the rebellion my hon. friend did not assert, and I cannot believe anything of the kind took place. I suppose at that time any troops appearing on the scene would have precipitated the outbreak that took place. With regard to the control of the force it has all along been held by the Premier; he had control of the Mounted Police at the time he was Minister of Justice, and also at the time he was head of the Department of the Interior, and he has control of it now. It is not under the control of the Department of the Interior, but of the Premier. He having been originally placed in that position has carried it along ever since, and the administration, I believe, is very thorough. As to their being soldiers, there is no distinction between their drill and the drill of the soldiery—that is, the soldier learns all that the mounted policeman learns, and the mounted policeman learns all that the soldier does. They have additional duty as police inspectors and magistrates, some of them, and those are duties in excess of those of the soldiery, but the ordinary drill of a mounted policeman is very much the ordinary drill of a cavalry man.

HON. MR. TRUDEL—Just at the breaking out of the rebellion the Government felt the necessity of making a change in their character and making them regular soldiers.