

try from individual outbreak, individual assault, individual raids, and so on. The Militia are at home attending to their various duties. If they are summoned to meet insurrection or defend their homes they are most efficient for that purpose, but the duty of the policeman is a daily duty. He has got to be employed—I was going to say in 500 different places, but certainly in 100 places, in parties from two to 500; they have to move about day and night; they have to watch the frontier. If there is a suspicion that there is going to be an exodus from any reserve, either to go on the war path or the more peaceable but more dishonest path of stealing their neighbors' cattle, they have to be watched. Stores are scattered all over the country, Hudson Bay stores, Government stores, as well as the stores of the individual trader, who pierces to the far west with the enterprise of the western trader—they have to be protected. There is ceaseless action—ceaseless movement of the police force from station to station, from point to point; they have to be watching continually. I think the House can quite understand that I am not all displeased with the interruption caused by an hon. gentleman (Mr. Orton) coming into the House, who, after performing his duty to the country in a creditable manner, as acknowledged by everybody from the general in command down to the suffering patient in the hospital—he comes here as soon as one duty had ceased, to perform another duty—a duty to the country and those whom he represents in Parliament. I will continue my remarks by stating that we might as well entrust the daily or nightly duty of the Metropolitan or London police to the Horse Guards, or to the troops stationed at Knightsbridge, as to throw on the militia of the country the daily, nightly and hourly duty of protecting life and property, which must be and is the duty of the Mounted Police. As I said before, the Act empowers the Government to increase the force. The hon. gentleman called attention, as perhaps he had a right, to the fact that the first notice I gave was to increase the force to 800 instead of 1,000. Well, it arose in this way, as he can quite understand. I thought 800 would be sufficient, but on talking it over with my colleagues, and especially considering the threatening condition of affairs, we thought we had better take power to have 1,000 men. If it is found that there is no necessity for 1,000, the number will be 800. When it is found that the force can be reduced, it can be reduced. Fortunately, in one sense, there is no difficulty in reducing the force. Applications for discharge are such that without a long delay the force would melt away, if we would allow the men to have their discharges. I must say one thing in favor of the police. The measure was introduced in 1873 when 150 men were collected—the original measure was for 300 men, and it was increased from 150 up to the number authorised by law. This force, whether it be 300, when there were few whites, and when the thing which had to be done was to keep peace among the Indians—whether it were that number or 500, they have performed their duties well. It is a remarkable thing that for so many years past peace reigned among the Indian tribes, and would have reigned yet, so far as the action of the Indians was concerned, if they were not roused by the outbreak among the half-breeds. If you look across the line to the United States, along the frontier, while we had 300, the Americans had 6,000 men watching the Indians on the northern frontier. We did the same thing, and we succeeded in a greater and better degree with this small and insignificant force, in keeping the peace to the north, than the Americans did, with their enormous force, which experience had taught them was required for the purpose of repressing Indian outbreaks. I think it is proper that I should make that statement with regard to the force. I have not disguised from myself, nor have I from the House, in the remarks I have made on this subject, ever since I have held my present position, that we

could not always calculate on that state of things. The Indian nature, savage and wild, is a very uncertain quantity, and if you look at the history of the various wars and insurrections that have arisen in the United States, and the constant outbreaks of savagery that have occurred, you will find that in some cases there is no reason assignable or appreciable by the white mind for them. Having had some little reading on that point—for it is a very interesting point to any Canadian or American—I have always expressed my apprehension that some time or other, for some cause, or without cause, there might be an unpleasant end to the state of quiet that had hitherto existed in the British North-West. The hon. gentleman stated that while Parliament was sitting we had given notice of a measure, and that we had stated that an increase of the force was to have been asked for, irrespective of the recent outbreak. That is quite true. I felt, and the Government felt, that the force ought to be increased for the purpose of efficiency, and therefore it was settled that the measure should be laid before the House. The men were recruited for this reason: When it was known that there was a very great amount of discontent among these half-breeds, and indeed when they had risen in arms, and formed themselves into a hostile combination, the officers were instructed that there was no time to be lost, and to recruit men as fast as possible. I was quite well aware that Parliament would assent to the increase. I was quite well aware that the reasons were so overwhelming that when the Government came down and stated, on their responsibility, that the force ought to be increased, the increase would be granted. And it is always well to take men when you can get them. At the time the hon. gentleman asked the question there were some 200 odd more recruited, on the strength of this measure being adopted. You can get plenty of applications to enter the force, but it is difficult to get men with all the requisites of a good policeman. Besides having a good physique, he must have some degree of intelligence and respectability. He is not merely food for powder, like the soldier, whose physique is the chief requisite, but he must be intelligent, must be educated, to a certain extent, must be able to read and write, to serve a process and to make a report when sent on duty, and I must say that in all these particulars the force has acted very creditably and very well. These are the explanations that I now have to make. The measure enables the Government, if they think 1,000 men are wanted, to increase the force to 1,000, without coming to Parliament for a new authority by another Act. If it is found that the 1,000 men are not wanted, they can keep the force down to a smaller number.

Mr. BLAKE. I think it is to be regretted that the hon. gentleman did not make these explanations in the course of the debate to which they properly belonged, instead of making them on the present occasion. The hon. gentleman remarked that his speech was brief, and that therefore he did not define particularly where this raiding took place, which he gave as the justification, if I remember rightly, the sole justification, for this increase. Not unnaturally, as the hon. gentleman spoke of flocks and herds, I assumed that it was where the flocks and herds were, and where we know there has been considerable difficulty in times past. The hon. gentleman says it is not the flocks and herds of the ranches, but those of the inhabitants of the country.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Not of the ranches only.

Mr. BLAKE. Then it was the flocks and herds of the ranches, but also those of the inhabitants of the country stretching from the limits of the ranche region down to the eastern limit of the Province of Manitoba, in so far as it borders on the United States. The hon. gentleman's statement on that subject is, of course, of high consequence, and it shows the importance of the House being possessed of fuller information than it has heretofore received. The hon.