

Mr. WHITE. I will suggest that it should read "who have or may."

Motion agreed to in the following form :

That, in the opinion of this House, the full sessional indemnity of such members of this House as have volunteered or may volunteer for service in the North-West, and whose services have been or may be accepted, should be paid upon their departure from Ottawa.

INDEMNITY TO MEMBERS.

Mr. FARROW moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 116) to amend the Members' Indemnity Act. He said: This Bill is not to increase the indemnity, but to regulate it. The law is such now that if a member falls sick in Ottawa and abides there, he is paid his sessional allowance, but if he chooses to go home and have his own doctor, and be attended to by his own people, he loses so much per day—\$8 per day. Now I am convinced that both sides of the House, so far as I have ascertained, are against that arrangement. The idea is that if a member is in Ottawa or out of Ottawa he should receive his indemnity. My Bill further provides that if a member is sick himself, or his family is sick—his family to be interpreted as meaning his wife or his children—if he is called away to attend to these, and makes a declaration at the end of the Session that he was lawfully detained, in such cases he is to be paid. This amendment is not to apply to this Parliament.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

DISTURBANCE IN THE NORTH-WEST—PRIVILEGE.

Mr. BLAKE. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire for the first time since I have been in Parliament, to refer to a newspaper article. I read an article from the *Daily Spectator* of Hamilton, of March 27th, 1885 :

"The trouble in the North-West is not so serious as the Grits, the people of St. Paul and other enemies of Canada wish people to think. It has, however, one very serious aspect. The half-breeds of the North-West are not the promoters or the originators of this little rebellion. They are an easy going, contented people; they have no desire to shoot anybody; and they have not the means to shoot anybody unless provided with the means. There were not a dozen rifles among them all, and they had not the money to buy rifles. Especially there were no Remington rifles in the country. Now where came these arms? The seriousness of the affair centres in that question. The great majority of the half-breeds were in Manitoba in 1870. They had their share of the half-breed lands there, sold out, and moved farther inland. Somebody has been moving them to ask for more land; somebody has been inciting them to discontent; somebody has got Riel over to further excite them; somebody has supplied them with rifles—Remington rifles—from the United States. The Grits of Ontario sympathise with the half-breeds. They try to make the most of the little outbreak. They think they can make political capital out of it. They were informed of the affair before anybody else knew anything about it. It is not unreasonable to suppose that those who sympathise with the half-breeds, those who have encouraged the half-breeds, those who are trying to turn the rising of the half-breeds to political use are the persons who have incited the rising and supplied the arms. The police will have no difficulty in suppressing the outbreak. We trust the simple, misguided half-breeds will be lightly punished. But it will be the duty of the Government to probe this affair to the bottom. The conspirators who have organised and inspired the movement and supplied the arms must be ferreted out. They deserve very serious punishment."

Sir, if this paper referred to myself alone I should have followed my invariable custom of not bringing a newspaper article before Parliament and the country. But it refers to the whole Reform party of the Province of Ontario; it refers to a party of as loyal men, as devoted Canadians as any set of men that are to be found in wide Canada, and I say that this article is a gross, and atrocious, a malignant insult. I say that no man ever perpetrated a fouler calumny against fellow countrymen than those who perpetrated this monstrous slander—false to their own knowledge. For my own individual part, my cousin's blood already stains the snows of the North-West, and my nephew is on the train to-day on his way to the front. Six men have been taken out of our own office for service in the North-West, and my own son and my brother's son have offered their

services. I cannot control myself when I think that a newspaper, reported to be decent and an organ of hon. gentlemen opposite, should dare to say such things as I have just now read.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. All I can say is that the newspaper is responsible for its own statement. I can only say that I totally disagree with the spirit of the article, and that I quite sympathise with the hon. gentleman in the indignation with which he has repudiated the charge.

DISTURBANCE IN THE NORTH-WEST—INFORMATION.

Mr. BLAKE. I call upon the hon. gentleman for any further statements he has to make with reference to that unhappy affair.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There is no further intelligence of any kind since the last explanations were made in the House. The militia and military men are moving on from Ontario westward. Of course, the House can well understand that a great deal of uneasiness exists in the North-West in the partially settled districts as to what will be the result in their own immediate vicinity. A great deal of apprehension exists in the vicinity of Calgary from their having no force there. There is fear that they may be involved in trouble with the Indians in their vicinity, who are in an excited state and may be troublesome; but that is all. There has not been any additional rising in any portions of the country since Friday. There is one exception, however, which I nearly forgot. A telegram has arrived that an Indian well known as troublesome, Poundmaker, and Little Pine, also a troublesome Indian, have donned their war paint not far from Battleford and have some men with them.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman has not given any information with reference to the alleged evacuation of Fort Carlton, nor a statement of the circumstances under which the disastrous collision took place there.

Mr. CARON. I communicated to the hon. gentleman the last telegram—

Mr. BLAKE. Yes, quite so.

Mr. CARON—which was received on that subject. Nothing has been received since, throwing any further light upon the event which has taken place, in addition to what I communicated to the hon. leader of the Opposition.

Mr. BLAKE. I consider it my duty to invite the hon. gentleman to state to Parliament such facts with respect to the North-West disturbances as he may have in his possession.

Mr. CARON. The telegram which was received last evening or late yesterday afternoon conveyed the intelligence that Fort Carlton had been abandoned, and that Col. Irvine, who was in command, had moved from Fort Carlton to Prince Albert. The telegram also stated that the fort had been burnt down. That fort I believe, so far as defensive purposes are concerned, was not very valuable, and it was considered advisable by Col. Irvine to move his force from that Fort to Prince Albert, after the abandonment and after the fort was burnt down. The information does not say whether by accident or intentionally, or by whom.

Mr. ROBERTSON (Hastings). I take occasion to ask the hon. gentleman whether the mounted police and "A" and "B" Batteries have been provided with gatling guns. Those guns have been found very valuable in the Egyptian war; and as they will fire 100 shots in a few minutes, they would be found, I think, very valuable in the North-West.

Mr. CARON. In answer to the hon. gentleman, I may say that gatling guns have been ordered. I think every