

stationed at similar posts on the opposite side of the frontier, not taking into account any special expenditure on account of the Indian disturbances. The head-quarters of this force was at Fort McLeod; the next most important station was Fort Walsh, in the vicinity of the place where Sitting Bull and his band were stopping; attached to Fort Walsh were two or three out posts, and there was, besides, a part of the force at Battleford, Swan River and Shoal Lake, and a small force at Qu'Appelle, and at Fort Saskatchewan. In all there were eight or ten such posts. It was probable that during the next summer it would be necessary to mass a considerable force at Fort Walsh station, in consequence of a number of Indians who had settled in that vicinity, or were crossing the line.

MR. SCHULTZ: I would like to ask the total number of Mounted Police.

MR. CARTWRIGHT: There are 330 men with, of course, the same number of horses. A small number of women and children are also attached to the posts, but the policy of the Government is to have as many unmarried men as possible.

MR. MITCHELL said the expense incurred in connection with this service was extraordinary. On turning to page 115 of the Public Accounts, he found that the clothing of the men cost \$100 per head. Then at page 117, he found an enormous amount charged for transport of stores; one item alone amounting to \$25,965. He noticed that 20 loads of hay were charged \$20. Now, he would like to know how many loads were represented in the \$62,425 set down for oats and hay.

MR. CARTWRIGHT said the charges were necessarily large, when it was considered that oats cost as much as 5 to 7c. a pound in the North-West. The expenditure for hay hitherto had amounted to about \$15 per ton. Hon. gentlemen were mistaken when they supposed that hay could be grown in unlimited quantities on the prairies, near the point where the force were stationed. A considerable area of land round two or three of the forts was being put under cultivation.

MR. CARTWRIGHT.

MR. MACMILLAN said that the men could cultivate as much as should supply forage for the whole of the horses, and food for the men during one year, unless some unforeseen circumstance, such as the appearance of grasshoppers, occurred. In fact the expenditure for this department should consist of nothing more than the pay of officers and men.

MR. CARTWRIGHT feared that was taking too sanguine a view of the case. It was desirable that a reasonable amount of land should be cultivated, but it must be remembered that the forces sent to the North-West had very responsible duties to perform, having 1,500 or 2,000 Indians under their special charge, and they could not be expected, therefore, to do much farming.

MR. BOWELL asked if any farming land had been sowed by these men hitherto and had proved a success?

MR. CARTWRIGHT said the produce for two years was completely destroyed, but during the current year some crop was obtained.

MR. BOWELL said he understood the difficulty of this question. There could be no doubt that, with the very onerous duties which they had to discharge, the Mounted Police could not devote much time to farming. The only point seemed to be, whether farming should not be carried on in the neighbourhood of the posts by men exclusively employed for that purpose.

MR. MACKENZIE said last year the Mounted Police in the neighbourhood of Swan River were supplied from a farm there with oats at a dollar a bushel, and hay at seven dollars a ton.

MR. BUNSTER said that the sooner the Canadian Pacific Railway was built the sooner would this expenditure be done away with. He was surprised to find so large an amount asked for this service. After an experience of three years, the Government ought to be able to raise oats at the mere cost of raising them, three-fourths of a cent. per lb., which would pay any farmer. It was said that the officers had onerous and dangerous duties to perform. They had no more onerous duties than to raise their own