

population of the North-West Territories, and one relating to the North-West Mounted Police."

Whether it had to do with drill or discipline or pay, or with the rules of the force, or whether it had to do with more than doubling the strength of the force, were things that were left entirely undefined by this diplomatic reference in the Speech from the Throne. I have no doubt the hon. gentleman has accurately stated the fact that it was proposed to increase the North-West Mounted Police before the Session commenced, and that irrespective altogether of circumstances attending the outbreak. That statement makes the proposal all the more alarming, because, if it were thought necessary, for the peace and security of the North-West before the outbreak, to more than double the Mounted Police, we are face to face with the question, what are the proposals, upon the whole, which will be necessary for the country after the outbreak? They may not, I presume they will not, involve any further increase for the Mounted Police, but it is impossible to dissociate from each other the various proposals which are required for securing peace, order and good government in that Territory, in the way, whether of a semi-military, semi-civil force as the Mounted Police, or of our militia, which is a mainly a force also used for the purpose of repression of minor disturbances, and in that sense acts, to a certain extent, in a constabulary or almost civil form. It is impossible to dissociate the consideration of these two questions; they are, in fact, one question; and therefore, if this proposal in its entirety, as it is now presented to us, was a proposal which was to be brought forward entirely irrespective of the outbreak, I repeat the question: What is to be the scheme of the Government on the whole with reference to the North-West, having regard to that not unimportant fact the outbreak? I admit the hon. gentleman has long, too long deferred the consideration of this proposal, but I think, under the circumstances, he might have deferred it a little longer. I think, when it was proposed to more than double the strength of the force, it was the duty of the First Minister, who happens to be the Minister specially charged with the force, to have brought down the annual report, to have given the House and the country the valuable information we will assume, from former reports, this report will contain, of the general operations of the force for the year. And I think that the more, because I well recollect that in 1882, when the hon. gentleman proposed an increase of this force, he depended largely on these reports, and he referred to copious extracts from these very reports as his just vindication for that course. Although we are now past the usual term of Session, although we are at the 9th of June, the report for the Mounted Police is not yet brought down; and a detailed enquiry being made to the hon. gentleman as to when the report was dated, when it reached him, and so forth, he is conveniently ignorant of what these dates are, and he says there has been an oversight in the Department. I wonder how many oversights there have been in the Departments in connection with the North-West? I wonder what oversight there has been which prevented us, in this critical period, when the report of the Mounted Police would have been very interesting reading, if we had it, from having the benefit of the information to be derived from the perusal of the report. He indeed, consoled us, by telling it was in galley, and being in galley we might expect it shortly. The report is in galley, and some of the hon. gentlemen's officers ought to be in the galleys for its being there. The proposal of the Government was no doubt very well considered; the previous proposal was no doubt well considered; it was a thoroughly matured proposal, a proposal which had been deliberated on for a long time, and with respect to which the Government have reached conclusions based upon a careful consideration of the exigencies of the situation. How do I prove that? How am I able to give the hon. gentleman that meed of

Mr. BLAKE.

praise? Why it is by the Votes and Proceedings, from which I find that on the 7th April the hon. gentleman put a notice on the paper to increase this force to 800 men with 20 supernumeraries and 20 scouts. That was the matured proposal of the Government which on the 7th April they proposed to submit to Parliament for its adoption. Within a week after that the hon. gentleman brought down another proposal to increase the strength of the force to 1,000 men and 20 supernumeraries and 50 scouts; or an addition of 30, 2½ times as many scouts, and of 200 men, two-thirds as many men in addition to that which he had proposed a few days before. I think a little explanation was due the House of these two notices; I think, when the hon. gentleman told us on the 7th April that his views on the exigencies of the situation in the North-West, after careful and mature deliberation, were that we required in all 840 men, and when he now asks us to arrange for 1,070 instead, we ought to have had a little explanation upon what the hon. gentleman's earlier and his later, his very little later, estimates were based. What was the ground he took when he decided upon 840 men, and what circumstances occurred to modify his opinion between the 7th April and a few days later, when he brought down the proposal for 1,070 men? We ought to know now upon what ground these figures are based. We must assume, when he made the statement in the Speech from the Throne, which he now tells us had reference to an increase of the Mounted Police, that it had reference to this measure to increase it to 840 men in all, and as that measure continued unchanged from the 29th January, when we met, until the 7th April, when he put the notice on the paper, we want to know what, between that and the 10th or 11th of April, brought about a change in his opinions and led him, in his judgment, to propose an addition of 230 more men, in round numbers, very nearly twice as many as he had proposed in the first instance. When I look at the varying figures and different proposals, when I consider the very short difference of time in which the hon. gentleman's mind was changed, there is, to speak seriously, evidence of haste or evidence of some new and strong and powerful consideration affecting the hon. gentleman's mind, which led him to believe that his proposal of the 7th April was so wholly inadequate that he was obliged to drop it from the notice paper without further consideration and modify that proposal by nearly doubling it. I think another observation is fit to be made in this same connection. I enquired of the hon. gentleman, having seen in the newspapers that recruiting was going on, a little while ago, whether the number recruited was in excess of the number authorised by law, and if so how many. I think he answered me it was about 230 men in excess of the number authorised by law. Now, I am not one of those who are at all disposed, when a great emergency exists, to criticise the conduct of a Government which acts, but acts properly and accurately within the maxim *salus populi suprema lex*; but at the time the hon. gentleman was making these arrangements, Parliament was in Session, those who had power to give him authority to do this lawfully were here. He had made his proposals, he had laid them on the Table, he had the conduct and control of the business of the House and the Parliament. It was for him to decide what measures it was urgent to bring first before the consideration of Parliament, what legal authorities it was requisite for him to obtain in the interests of the country. He asked us to take no steps in this measure, he did not give us even the opportunity to vote, he did not ask the vote of the House upon it; in fact he made possible no debate or consideration upon it, but having put the notice on the paper, he proceeds coolly to violate the law by enlisting two hundred and thirty men in excess of his lawful authority to send to the North-West and he caused them to go. And I think it is a very serious question what the position of those men was—men enlisted without the authority of