

POSITION OF COLONELS AT THE
TERCENTENARY.

INQUIRY POSTPONED.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I have a question on the Order Paper item No. 4 which reads as follows :

Has any provision been made or will any be made by the militia authorities to give honorary colonels and honorary lieutenant-colonels of regiments a fitting position in the military turnout at Quebec on the occasion of the tercentenary?

It is easy to answer that—just telephone to the Militia Department to rouse the minister?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I have written and telephoned and I have asked him to send down one of the officials who was familiar with the matter to the hon. gentleman's room and get him what he wanted. I did the best I could. I cannot reform all the departments at the same time.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—No. I asked by question No. 4, what standing will be given to lieutenant colonels and honorary colonels in the turnout which will take place at Quebec.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I got that answer.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I did not get it.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It must be among my papers. They were to have an official standing in Quebec.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I will wait for an answer.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—That was really the substance of the answer, that they were to have an official standing at the Tercentenary.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—In regard to paragraph (c) of inquiry No. 2, the hon. gentleman said an official would come to me to inquire what I wanted. He came up.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I fear the department do not see their way to answer that.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—They are at sea.

The SPEAKER—Have all the questions been answered?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I will bring another answer in the afternoon.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—In reference to paragraph (c) question No. 2, does the hon. gentleman know whether the records have been kept in the department? I know that when Major General Herbert was in charge of the department, some inquiries were made with reference to the pay rolls of the old Belleville Rifle Company. We were desirous of obtaining its history. It went back as far as 1837, and the answer we got was that all these old records had been burned and destroyed, being considered of no value. Probably this return may be in the same position. The question is, whether the parties to whom the money was really due ever got it, and whether it was paid by the government and put in the pockets of some official. I think that is the history of the matter to which the question alludes.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Quite likely.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—And if it were possible to arrive at the truth of the matter, it would be a vindication of the officer who received the money. If, however, he kept the money he ought to be punished.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I will explain the object of my motion. In 1865-6 some volunteers were sent to Prescott. Some companies were paid at the rate of 50 cents and some at the rate of 25 cents a day. That is what the men say. I want to know if the government discriminated in that way, paying some of the men twice as much as they paid others?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—That is a proper inquiry.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—I asked for a return relating to one company, the men of which received 50 cents a day, and for a return of another company, the men of which received only 25 cents a day. The man who came to me said, 'Do you want all the pay lists?' I said, 'I do not want that, I only want the amount paid in these two cases.' The official I have referred to brought me the pay lists of the annual drill that year. I said 'I do not want the annual drill; I want the pay lists of the men on active service on the frontier that year.' I explained to him exactly what I wanted,