

those from the east, and received recognition in the way of medals and scrip. But the men who stood beside them in the fight and who endured with them the hardships of the campaign did not receive either medals or scrip. That was an invidious distinction between two classes of men who rendered equally good service. I have not been able to find out why that distinction was made, and I do not believe that there was any good reason for making it. But I am bound to say that the fact of its being made has tended to prejudice the North-west Mounted Police in the minds of the people, the idea being that when such a clear, palpable distinction was made there must have been a reason for it. It is a conclusion which is inevitable. Eminent services were rendered by two classes of men of exactly the same kind, and the Government see fit to recognize one and refuse recognition to the other; certainly the public generally were bound to come to the conclusion that the Government had good reason for what they did. And that conclusion has militated seriously against the name and fame and welfare of the Mounted Police force of the North-west Territories ever since that day. Now, I say it is high time that the slur then cast upon the Mounted Police should be removed. For, there was no cause for that slur. The matter should be investigated or the Government should move in the matter. There are other claims for recognition for services in suppressing that rebellion which have been ignored on account of petty and trivial technicalities, very little to the credit of those who were influenced by them. I think the time has come for straightening up all these matters, all these obligations—for I consider that they are obligations—for the recognition of the services that were rendered, not to the North-west Territories, but to the whole of the Dominion of Canada by the sons of the Dominion. The time has come to sweep aside technicalities and recognize these services. At that time, Mr. Speaker, it was recognized that great services were necessary, the country being in a critical condition. Those great services were rendered, and the least the country should do is to recognize them. I have stated that the country did recognize these services in the case of a great many of the men who took part in the campaign. There is nothing that could be more agreeable to the mind of a patriotic citizen than that the men who left their homes and turned out to risk their lives and fight for the welfare of their fellow-citizens and the credit of their country, should be recognized handsomely. But, inasmuch as it was right and proper that this recognition should be given, so the slur that is cast by it not being given to a certain branch of the force is all the more disgraceful and should be removed all the more quickly. I have pleasure, Mr. Speaker, in supporting the hon. gentleman's motion.

Mr. SPROULE. I have pleasure in seconding the motion, for the same reason that I have seconded other motions of that kind that have been brought before this House. I am quite satisfied from the knowledge I have of the work of the Wood Mountain Scouts, that they took as able and active and important a part in quieting the rebellion as did any other portion of the militia; and why some of the men who took part in suppressing the rebellion were rewarded and others left out, I could never well understand. It must be said for the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), that he has at different times brought this question to the attention of the House, and that he has, in a measure, succeeded. He succeeded to the extent of getting a commission appointed to inquire into these cases, and a number of men who had been previously left out were included amongst those who were considered deserving of recognition according to the ruling of the Government. But there were still a few who were left out. Now, why should they be left out? If nine-tenths were granted compensation, why not the whole? I must say I looked over the matter several times and I never could understand why the Government did not go so far as to compensate the whole of these men, and I think the hon. member for West Assiniboia is entitled to the gratitude of the people of that country for the way he has fought in their interest every time he has had an opportunity in this House. It cannot be said that when his own friends were in power he failed to impress the matter upon their minds as he is doing to-day. On previous occasions he has spoken at greater length and with greater emphasis than he has at present. I think he deserves credit for the fight he has made, and I hope that the Government will take into consideration the case made out for these people and will give them the same recognition that was accorded to other scouts that took part in the suppression of that rebellion, so that justice may be done to all.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Mr. Davies). Before the question is put I would like to call the attention of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) to the fact that the House has not been placed in possession of sufficient information to justify them in coming to a vote upon this question one way or another. The hon. gentleman has contented himself with almost formally moving the motion. Unfortunately the Premier is engaged elsewhere on important business which prevents him being in the House, and my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), who of course would have this matter particularly under his charge, is not here either. Therefore I take it that it would not do to ask the House to come to a decision in the absence of these gentlemen and the information necessary to form a judgment. I think I shall meet the views of the hon. gentle-