

had a policy for the organisation of local corps in the North-West at different points. It was a settled policy, an agreed policy, a policy consented to by both sides, and when that organisation has disappeared, I charge its disappearance upon hon. gentlemen opposite. That is the point, and the hon. gentleman now says: Oh, it did not disappear, because I did not reduce the forces. If I allowed the local organisations to disappear it was that I might create additional forces in Winnipeg. That does not answer the question at all. It may have been all right to create that battalion in Winnipeg—I am not questioning the creation of the additional battalion in Winnipeg. I dare say that was a judicious thing to do—I am not discussing it now—I will grant it for the moment, but it has nothing to do with the question of the reversal of policy as to local corps in the North-West. That is what we have to deal with.

Mr. CARON. Allow me to ask the hon. gentleman whether he would have been more successful in keeping men together who were going from one portion of that immense territory to another, thereby completely disorganising these companies. It is not a question of disorganisation, but they disappeared completely. It is not, as the hon. gentleman stated, that they were disorganised because they had no tunics, but because, if they had tunics, there were no men to wear them, and the hon. gentleman knows it.

Mr. BLAKE. Now, the hon. gentleman has made a statement which requires attention. He says that was the reason, and that I know it. I say again that my information is derived from, perhaps, an eminently untrustworthy source. I am beginning to believe so. It is derived from the hon. gentleman's own reports.

Mr. CARON. You have said so before.

Mr. BLAKE. Now, let us see what the cause was, as stated by the hon. gentleman's own reports. In the report for the year 1882 the commanding officer declares:

"The North-West corps, in consequence of not yet having received any uniforms, were relieved from drill this year by order of the Adjutant-General, dated 10th August."

He goes on:

"In reference to these corps, I may state that it is hardly to be expected that they will give up much of their valuable time and supply their own horses for drilling purposes, or even regard themselves in the light of a properly organised body of militia, until after they have been furnished with uniforms of some pattern or denomination."

Then, in the following year, after this report was made, the officer reports again:

"In the same connection, I would beg most respectfully to urge the advisability of the reorganisation, or, more properly, the organisation of the North-West corps, which although now more than three years enrolled and shortly afterwards outfitted with arms, ammunition and saddlery, have never since been assembled for drill, in consequence of no uniform having, up to the present time, been furnished to them. These corps are still in existence, and could readily be resuscitated by their original commanding officers were they to receive encouragement to do so."

The Minister of Militia says he knew, and that I knew, that these men, who were scattered all over the country, had all gone, that they had all disappeared; that the arms were there, and the saddles were there, but that the men who enlisted were gone. I find that his own officer tells him that "the corps are still in existence and could readily be resuscitated by their original commanding officers were they to receive encouragement to do so." What was the encouragement they got? The encouragement was to disband them. We have the statement in the report of the 1st July last, of the number there is for drill, only 380 out of 775; and that statement includes these companies. The officer adds:

"I may here state that since the commencement of the current year, 1884-85, namely, by *Gazette* of the 13th September last, the three com-

panies of mounted rifles and two companies of infantry in the North-West Territories have been removed from the list of corps of the active militia."

I stated that from an earlier period the growing discouragement was pointed out; that the hon. gentleman was told by his officers that it was not expected that the force could go on without being supplied with uniforms; that last year he was told the corps were still in existence and could easily be resuscitated, if only they could be given any encouragement, and that the encouragement he gave was to disband them.

Resolution to be reported.

INSPECTION OF GAS.

Mr. McLELAN moved the second reading of Bill (No. 119) further to amend the Acts respecting the inspection of Gas and Gas Meters.

Mr. BLAKE. Perhaps the hon. gentleman would throw a little light on this, in the absence of his colleague.

Mr. McLELAN. The previous Act required that notice should be given to the manufacturers of gas when the quality of the gas as well as the meters were to be inspected. It was thought unwise to give the manufacturers notice when the quality of the gas was about to be tested as well as the quantity, and this Bill is just to amend the Act so that notice of an intention to inspect the quality of the gas will not be given.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The clause I have before me appears rather to provide that the manufacturers should have 24 hours' notice, although I entirely agree with the Minister that it is not desirable that the manufacturers should get notice. I have had a good deal of practical experience of the dexterity of the manufacturers of gas in altering the quality to suit the inspection, and in various ways in playing tricks on the consumer.

Mr. McLELAN. The clause which it is proposed to substitute for that now in the Act provides for notice only of the inspection of the meter and not of the quality of the gas.

Bill read the second time.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and the House adjourned at 1:25 a.m., Wednesday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 10th June, 1885.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at half-past One o'clock.

PRAYERS.

CULLING AND MEASURING OF TIMBER.

Mr. McLELAN moved that the House resolve itself into committee of the Whole to-morrow to consider the following resolution:—

That it is expedient to amend the Acts relating to the culling and measuring of timber in Ontario and Quebec and to provide that the Governor in Council may by regulation direct that the number of cullers employed shall not exceed thirty-three who may be employed as he directs; that annuities granted to cullers may be three hundred dollars per annum, and that the tariff of fees levied under the said Acts may be varied for the purpose of meeting expenditure thereunder and to allow to cullers average yearly earnings of seven hundred dollars each.

Motion agreed to.