

Justice Sedgewick, then Deputy Minister of Justice, I did not forget those in whose behalf I am now moving; but, as I have said, the papers with regard to the Willow Bunch and Wood Mountain scouts never came into my hands, and I was unable therefore to do more than mention them to Mr. Sedgewick; and Col. Panet and the others who were going into all the claims were unable to find the documents. But I know they were placed in the hands of my hon. friend from Provencher (Mr. LaRivière), and that hon. gentleman has promised me that they shall be forthcoming. As regards the scouts of Maple Creek and Moose Jaw, I placed their claims before Mr. Sedgewick. Their claims were not very numerous, but his decision was adverse, but not so decidedly adverse that it would not be right to review that decision; and as the claims of the Willow Bunch and Wood Mountain scouts are gone into, it would be desirable that the claims of the Maple Creek and Moose Jaw scouts should be likewise investigated. However, I build my confidence in this motion mainly on getting scrip for the Willow Bunch and Wood Mountain scouts. They were an organized body under Mr. Legaré. There cannot be the least doubt of the danger that was apprehended, at the time, from hostile Metis south of the line, friends of Louis Riel, coming up to give assistance in the rebellion; and although that rebellion did not spread and did not make a conflagration co-extensive with the Indian and Metis posts in the North-west Territories, that was not owing to the smallness of the danger or to the smallness of the probability that such might be the case, but rather to the promptness with which the Government pounced upon the fire before it spread and the success of our gallant volunteers.

Mr. DALY. Before the motion is carried, I desire to say, that it will be a matter of considerable importance to the Willow Bunch and Wood Mountain scouts if the information which the hon. gentleman has stated is in the hands of the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. LaRivière), were placed in the hands of the Minister of Militia and Defence. There is no doubt these scouts rendered very valuable service during the rebellion of 1885. I am afraid their case has not been thoroughly considered, in view of the fact, that the information the hon. gentleman speaks of has not been in possession of the department. I have no doubt, that, if the information is laid before the Minister, he will go thoroughly into the case. I am quite agreeable to the motion passing, if it is amended. I now move that it should be, by inserting the word "if" before the word "entitled" and striking out all after "1886." The motion would then read:

That, in the opinion of this House, the hon. the Minister of Militia should at once take steps to have scrip given to the scouts of Willow Bunch, Wood Mountain, Maple Creek and Moose Jaw, if entitled under the Act of 1886.

Mr. DAVIN.

Mr. McMULLEN. I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, when we are going to reach the end of the troubles in connection with the North-west rebellion. Every year claims are coming up. The giving away of the valuable lands of the North-west in this manner, session after session, is a thing that we should hesitate to do, unless there is a strong and well-defined claim. I do not see that it would be proper for this House to adopt unanimously a resolution of this kind. For my part, I am not prepared to concur in it. It may add greatly to the popularity of the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) to bring in resolutions which have the effect of giving these people donations of the public land for some services supposed to have been rendered eleven years ago. It is singular, that these things have been so long overlooked. How is it, that these claims were not attended to before? It shows considerable lack of activity on the part of the hon. member for Assiniboia to have allowed these people to have remained without this acknowledgment of their services for eleven years, and never even to have presented their claims until the approach of the general election. When a general election comes round, he becomes most active in seeking to have the valuable lands of the North-west given away in this manner. If we carry this resolution, and this donation is made, we shall hear nothing more of other claims, if the hon. gentleman is elected, for five years more; and, when the next general election comes, some Joe, or Dan, or Pat, will have a claim which will be brought before the House, and the unanimous sanction of the House asked for a grant for services rendered by them or some of their forefathers. I think we had better put a stop to this. A commission was appointed years ago to look into these claims. They took evidence on all the claims, I understand, and reported. Where were the claims the hon. gentleman has spoken of, then? For my part, I intend to record my vote against this resolution.

Mr. AMYOT. I protest against the remarks which the hon. gentleman has just made. He has no idea of what occurred in the North-west in 1885. He does not know the extent of that country. Nor does he know the bravery that was shown by hundreds of people there. The hon. gentleman complains of the value of the North-west lands, which, he says, are to be given away. But those lands seemed to be worth nothing to the hon. gentleman, when it was a question of acquiring them for the country. He has objected to any organization for the administration of those lands, and to-day, when the question comes up of recompense of those who have exposed their lives for the defence of those lands, he tries to undervalue their merits and their sacrifices. The question is not, whether these parties have been left for a long time without jus-