DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

Mr. Blake asked whether the Premier had any further information as to the present condition of affairs in the Northwest, as to the cause of the rising, and as to what the Government had done.

Sir John Macdonald—The condition stands very nearly as it was before. There is no information as yet, and there cannot be until to-morrow, as to when the junction would be made between the body commanded by Col. Irvine and the body at Fort Carlton under Supt. Crozier. There are a hundred men of the 90th at Qu'Appelle ready if necessary to proceed in the direction of the South Saskatchewan. They will be followed by the remainer of the regiment, two hundred men and half a battery of artillery. Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney telegraphs me to-day that he has seen a number of the Indians on the reserve near Broadview about some reports that they were excited. These Indians are exceedingly indignant at the charge being brought against them, and demand to be brought face to face with their accusers. We have received messages from Battleford and Edmonton. Everything is quiet there. I had a telegram from the Rev. Father Lacombe to-day, testifying to the loyalty of the Blackfeet Indians in his vicinity. We are quite unaware of the proximate causes of the half-breed rising under Riel. Riel came into the country, invited by them, some time ago. I believe he came for the purpose of attempting to extract money from the public purse. We received intimations during last summer that if the Government would give him a sum of money, the sum of five thousand dollars was mentioned, he would withdraw. This proposition, of course, could not be entertained for a moment. He remained there inciting the half-breeds and attempting to arouse the Indians by telling them that the country belonged to them. The statement has been made that Riel was told he was an outlaw, and not a British subject, and had no right in the country. Such an intimation was never made to him, so far as I know. He has great influence over the half-breeds, and some influence over the Indians. He was considered, on account of the former occurrences, a sort of martyr in the cause and a sort of half-breed Mahdi, and looked up to with superstitious regard. He acts upon the feelings of these poor people. I do not believe there is the slightest danger from the half-breeds, unless they should be joined by the Indians. The half-breeds have had a great many claims, some of which are reasonable while others are not reasonable. The House knows that, when the settlement of matters in Manitoba was made, a large number of half-breeds were settled on the Assiniboine and Red River who had then little properties in possession under the direct sanction of the Hudson Bay Company. All those claims were recognized. Certain parcels of land were appropriated to satisfy them, and land scrip was issued to those half-breeds to the value of their holdings. The half-breeds scattered over the plains had no such rights from the Hudson Bay Company or any one else. But they had heard that the half-breeds in the Red River had received certain money or money's worth and they claimed that they had the same rights. Now among those half-breeds at Prince Albert and on both banks of the Saskatchewan there are a number of half-breeds who received scrip for land on the Red River, and afterwards left Manitoba and went to the plains. They put in their demands for land scrip again, thinking that they would not be identified. A great many of them have been identified and their claims refused. The half-breeds have been told that if they desire to be considered as Indians a most liberal reserve will be set apart for them. If they desire to be considered white men they can get 160 acres of land as homesteads. But they are not satisfied with that. They want to get land scrip for a large quantity of land, upwards of 200 acres, and then get their homsteads as well. Then there was some difficulty about the settlement of the plots on which these half-breeds settled along the Saskatchewan. No man has been disturbed on these plots, and they have been told they will not be disturbed. Sometimes the half-breeds fought among themselves, because in the bending of the river one man's claim overlaps another's.

Mr. Blake rose amid cheers. He explained that at one time he had intended to speak generally in reply to the gentlemen who had quoted what they alleged to be his public utterances. He would not deal with those questions, however, but he did not wish those gentlemen to suppose that he let those statements pass uncontradicted. The House will recollect that on Monday last I called the attention of the Government to the Northwest trouble, and invited them to give the House such information as they could upon it. The First Minister answered me, giving as the reason which he understood was the cause of the present state of things that a letter was said to have been written stating that Riel was not a British subject, and the hon. gentleman stated that certain questions connected with half-breed claims were in process of settlement. Some of these demands were admitted to be reasonable, others very unreasonable. He stated also that nothing of the nature of a Bill of rights had come to the cognizance of the Government, and the Winnipeg Field Battery had not been despatched to the field of action, but that last summer the precaution had been taken to have some additional force near Prince Albert. Fort Carlton has been occupied with the consent of the Hudson Bay Company with a considerable force of police. The next day I renewed the inquiry and asked if there was any additional intelligence on the subject. The First Minister said there was nothing further to communicate, and to-day we have elicited from him some further information, but not such, I believe, as the occasion justified, or rather, demanded. The hon. gentleman has said, after it has become public in the newspapers, that a portion of the militia force of this country have been summoned, that they are enrolled, and are now moving towards the scene of action, and he gives us some of the proximate and some of the remote causes to which he considered this disturbance was due. But even now he did not give us that information which it was his duty to give us, as to what the Government was doing. The newspapers tell us that the General commanding the Canadian forces is on his way, if he has not already reached Winnipeg, to take command of the forces to be used in quelling this disturbance. Upon that subject we ought to have more and fuller information, and also with reference to the whole of the circumstances which preceded this outbreak. (Cheers.) Mr. Blake read other despatches from the Government organs as to the calling out of the militia, etc., and proceeded: Now, I observe that the Government organs, while they give this account of what is going on, yet complain most grievously of the accounts published by the Opposition newspapers. I therefore preferred to draw my information from these unimpeachable organs which sustain these hon. gentlemen opposite, and which would, of course, be actuated by the highest dictates of patriotism, prudence and scrupulous accuracy. You will observe that it is stated in these organs that the half-breeds have had grievances for several years, that their patents had not been issued, and that influential persons have influenced officials and obtained the lands belonging to the settlers, that the half-breeds have good grounds of complaint, and that the Government at this convenient season had issued a commission upon the subject. It is very plain from what the hon. gentleman told us that serious action was decided upon by the Administration in the way of putting the military force of the country into action on the 23rd instant, the period at which the hon. gentleman did not think fit to inform the House, then in session, of the circumstance, although the House had invited him to give the information. It seems to me that the Government had not done that which it ought to have done. I say it is a very serious thing that the militia force of this country should have been obliged to be called out. I am not by any means blaming the Administration for calling them out. But it is a serious and grave occurrence. For, I suppose, nearly two centuries the law of England has been that when the militia force is called out Parliament is to be summoned within fourteen days. This law has since been altered by shortening the period to ten days, which is the present law. It is obvious that it is regarded as a reasonably serious thing that the militia should be called out, and that when such an emergency occurs Parliament, the great Council of the nation, should be called together. In this case the great Council was already sitting and the Government decided to call out the troops in order to quell this disturbance. But hon. gentlemen did not think fit to inform us. On the contrary, being invited to give information, they stated that they thought it prudent last year to place a hundred Mounted Policemen in Fort Carlton, but they did not tell the House they had ordered out a battalion and half a battery of artillery. As long ago as last July there was indication of trouble with the half-breeds in the Northwest. The newspapers then said that at the request of some of the inhabitants of the Northwest, Riel had gone into the Northwest and a meeting was held at which he spoke, urging the half-breeds not to state the grievances as separate individuals, but to combine and lay them before the Government, and telling them to ask to have the Northwest Territories erected into Provinces with Provincial Legislatures. The newspaper from which I make these quotations is the *Globe*. It states that this invitation by the half-breeds to Riel to return is a serious matter, and that this action must have been because they despaired of getting justice by ordinary means. That was the state of affairs with reference to Riel last summer, and the hon. gentleman has told us that he considered the matter so serious that they decided to occupy Carlton, which was a defensible post, in view of what was going on. You find it stated in various Government organs that there have been complaints and dissatisfaction among the half-breeds for years. You find it stated by the *Mail* that some of these complaints and grievances are well-founded and ought to be redressed. You find that the half-breeds called Riel to head them last summer. You find that he came and that the situation became somewhat critical. The Government recognized that fact in one sense by taking preliminary steps with reference to Fort Carlton, but no active step was taken to prevent this long-continued condition of dissatisfaction from coming to a head to which it apppeared to have been coming. These questions have been complicated, and the difficulties have been enhanced by the delay and neglect in their treatment. The Government organs admitted that a chronic state of discontent had existed in that country for years, and they editorially admitted that there were grounds for discontent. When the Government itself felt that the circumstances were so serious as to call for the occupation of Fort Carlton these circumstances should have impressed on their minds the necessity for the still more important duty of addressing themselves to the removal of the causes of the discontent, and of considering such measures as would have prevented this festering sore from festering still further (cheers), and as would have prevented this outbreak from taking place. Force is no remedy, but what they did was to apply force to put a hundred men into Fort Carlton; we hear of them doing nothing more. We do not hear of the situation as being grave. The reports speak of peace, prosperity and contentment. From an outside source I hear that there was serious trouble between parties who had settled on some land and a colonization company to whom the lands had been allotted, but who had not got them surveyed, and who therefore could not take possession. With all these occurrences there must be correspondence on the subject. There must be reports. I cannot conceive that with hordes of officials, from Lieut.-Governor Dewdney downward, with inspectors of colonization companies, with commissioners and assistant commissioners, and with Mounted Police officers, that the Government have not demanded reports, or even if they have not demanded reports, that they have not received reports on the condition of the country. The fact that the gentleman should have allowed the matter to get to this head having had these warnings and having accepted this warnings in so far as to place a force in that neighborhood within striking distance of the scene of action, and yet should not have taken active, intelligent and energetic measures to remove the causes of the grievances, whatever they may be, is a matter which certainly demands explanation at the hands of the Government. They could not have inflicted a more serious blow to the Northwest than by permitting this matter to get to this head, I do not care what its proportions are. The Government only awakened to the fact that the situation was serious when hostilities commenced. A commission to investigate the grievances complained of had been appointed, and with the aid of foot, cavalry and artillery the Government hoped to get out of the scrape. It would be a question to know what to do with Riel when he was caught. The Premier had at a previous time inveighed against him (Blake) when leader of the Ontario Government, for issuing a proclamation, which he asserted had driven Riel to flee across the lines into the United States. When this statement was made by Sir John at that time it was greeted with cheers, but a distinguished prelate afterwards brought papers to prove that Sir John himself had paid Riel to leave the country. The secret service money voted by the Government had been taken to pay him. Looking back at these circumstances it was interesting to know what the Government would now do with Riel. It was very significant that, as Sir John said this afternoon, he was again appealing for money, and evidently had not forgotten the lesson taught him by the leader of the Government. The Government would doubtless find trouble in the fact that secret service money was not now available.

THE RUSSIAN SCARE.

Still Waiting for Russia's Answer—The Troops Demanded by Lord Dufferin—War Feeling Dying Out.

A last night's London cable says:

To-day has been an anxious day in military circles. The war preparations are in full blast, and public opinion is still divided as to the chances of averting war. On one question there is no difference of opinion. England cannot retreat, as the *Times* says, without humiliation, and it is believed that, having taken a decided stand, she will maintain it.

At Portsmouth all the ships belonging to the First Naval Reserve, including four ironclads, with all gunboats and torpedo boats, have been ordered to be got in immediate readiness for sea, and lists of all men available for service in the army reserves and militia have been called for. The dockyard departments have been officially notified to hold themselves in readiness to supply extra stores for military and naval service.

It is reported the Government have received an informal indication that Russia will offer counter proposals to Earl Granville's looking to a compromise.

The *Times* concurs with the *News* in inferring from Earl Granville's remarks in the House of Lords that the Government takes the position that Penjdeh belongs to the Afghans. This position makes a complete disposal of Russia's disingenuous plea that the occupation of Penjdeh by the Afghans justified Russia to advance upon a debateable point. "The question of peace or war," the *Times* declares, "now rests more with Russia than with England. To desert the Ameer would mean to make Russia the present of an alliance with him. In that event England would be compelled to fight both the Ameer and Russia. We sincerely regret that Russia's movements daily increase the chances of a rupture. The immediate necessity of the moment is that Russia be made clearly to understand that England is thoroughly in earnest."

The "Peace-at-any-price" members of the House of Commons are circulating a petition to Mr. Gladstone urging him to secure the submission of the Afghan question to arbitration. Extreme Radicals are the only signers.

Lord Dufferin's request for reinforcements states if war is to be declared India requires that twenty-three regiments of infantry, three regiments of cavalry, two batteries of field artillery, and eighteen batteries of horse artillery be despatched to India forthwith. The Mobilization Committee and Transport Department are busily arranging to collect and forward these troops. Several of the swiftest ocean steamers have been chartered for the transport service, including the America and Arizona. Orders have been sent to the Mediterranean station to have all magazines overhauled and to prepare all gun-boats and torpedo vessels for service.

Agents of Irish organizations have approached the Russian Embassy in Paris with offers of assistance in case of war between Russia and England. The agents propose to foment a rising in Ireland while England is engaged in Afghanistan, and to fit out privateers in America to prey upon British commerce. They ask Russia to furnish its Irish allies with means to carry out their part of the bargain.

Despatches from Gulran and Penjdeh show the situation on the Afghan frontier unchanged. The commission under Gen. Lumsden has completed the basis for the delimitation of the boundary, and is still awaiting the arrival of Gen. Zelinow, the Russian commissioner.

"Russian people are alarmed," telegraphs the Paris correspondent of the *Times*, "at the idea of war. They know that war with England would be disastrous to Russia. The Czar needs money, and in the event of war it would be only possible for him to obtain a loan upon ruinous terms. The Russians in Paris admit that England cannot recede, while with Russia the whole question is merely one of ambition. All the powers have instructed their ambassadors at St. Petersburg and London to urge the Russian and English Governments to moderation and concession. The ambassadors state that both powers are really anxious for peace.

A number of Russian officers have suddenly left Paris. It is rumored they received secret orders to immediately join their regiments.

The Russian subjects of Central Asia are said to be ripe for revolt, and to be eagerly looking for an Anglo-Russian war, which would enable them to rise and attack the Russians from the rear.

The military garrison in Ireland will be maintained in full strength, and may be increased from the reserves.

—The new materials are woollen goods of two shades which form a harmony, or plain goods with a tint or cast to them—tan color, ashes-of-rose, bronze with a yellow tint and new shades of brown. The material is a sort of lady's cloth, a jersey webbing or a corded goods that is non-elastic.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

The House went into committee on the Bill to make further provision regarding the public health, Mr. Baxter in the chair.

Hon. A. M. Ross said he had adopted the suggestion of the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. McLaughlin) to strike out the word "epidemic" in the third line, leaving the clause to read: "Whenever, from the presence of any formidable contagious disease in any locality," etc. He also proposed to amend the second clause by providing that if a Council does not appoint a medical health officer, an appointment shall be made by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council upon the recommendation of the Provincial Board of Health. Then in the third section he proposed to limit such appointment until the disease abates, or until the February following such appointment.

Mr. Meredith said the local Boards of Health had unlimited power of destroying property to any value, which was a power they ought not to have, and to meet this objectionable feature of the system he moved the following as an additional section: "No determination or order of a Local or the Provincial Board of Health for the removal or abatement of any nuisance shall be enforced except by order of the High Court of Justice, when such nuisance involves a loss or destruction of property of a value of $500 and upwards, and upon any application to the court the order of the Local or Provincial Board of Health shall not be evidence that the matter was or is a nuisance."

Hon. A. M. Ross pointed out that the Act did make provision in the direction of this amendment to some extent. However, it was a case in which there might be necessity for some further restriction, and he therefore moved that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again. In the meantime he would take the matter into consideration.

The committee rose and reported.

Hon. O. Mowat moved the House into committee on the Bill to amend the Act for employing prisoners without the walls of common jails, Mr. White in the chair.

The Bill passed without amendment and was reported.

Hon. O. Mowat—It is found as the law now stands crime is often undetected because there is no provision for the special services of constables and others. The proposal was that in any case in which, in the opinion of the warden and county attorney of a county, special services not covered by the ordinary tariff are necessary for the detection of crime or the capture of persons who are believed to have committed crimes of a serious character, the warden and county attorney aforesaid may authorize any constable, or other person, to perform these services, and shall certify upon the account to be rendered by such constable or other person what they deem a reasonable allowance to be paid to the person employed, and the amount so certified shall be allowed to such person in the accounts in respect of the administration of justice, and shall be paid in the first instance by the county, and one-half shall be repaid to the county by the Province. It is always necessary to act with promptitude in these cases if anything is done at all and it seems reasonable that the county attorney and warden should have the right to decide when these services were necessary.

Mr. Meredith asked if it covered the case of constables having incurred expense in arresting persons who had been committed for trial.

Mr. O. Mowat said it did.

Mr. Wood thought the Bill supplied a very great public want.

The Bill was read the second time.

Hon. A. S. Hardy, in moving the second reading of the Bill relating to the Election Acts and respecting the Legislative Assembly, called the attention of the House to the points with which the Bill would deal. The first three clauses are intended to provide for a case similar to that of the East Simcoe case, where the judges have differed—where they have not been able to come to a common decision—and this points out that in case the matter is taken to the Court of Appeal the Registrar shall report the judgment or decision of that court as the judgment of the case, or they may refer the matter back to the rota judges, for the purpose of having their opinions or judgment carried out. If that had been done in the East Simcoe case there would probably have been no difficulty there. He concluded by moving the second reading of the Bill.

Hon. C. F. Fraser moved the second reading of the Bill to extend the franchise.

Mr. Meredith contended that the principle of a property qualification had long been disregarded. He contended that assessors might be partizan enough to assess people too low to enable them to vote. He contended that students and many school teachers would be excluded from the franchise. He concluded by moving the following amendment: That the following words be added to the motion—And while consenting to the second reading of the Bill, and thereby the principle that an extension of the franchise is necessary and expedient, this House desires to express its opinion that no such extension which does not render a proper system of registration, and, while excluding the criminal and nonsane classes, aliens and persons disqualified under the provisions of the Election Acts, confer the franchise upon every other male resident of the Province of the full age of 21 years ought to be adopted by this House.

Hon. C. F. Fraser—What does the hon. gentleman propose, supposing this very simple proposition, as he calls it, should become law? Is it a proposition that everybody can understand? It is that the franchise shall be extended, under a proper system of registration, which shall exclude the criminal and insane classes, aliens, and persons disqualified under the provisions of the Election Act, confer the franchise upon every male resident of the Province who is of the age of 21 years? Perhaps he would not have any machinery for finding out who are the criminal classes or who are the insane. Perhaps he would not have a provision for finding out these just as there is a provision for finding out under this Bill who is earning wages amounting to $300.

Mr. White—The jail records.

Hon. C. F. Fraser—Would you not have any machinery for getting at the jail records? It would require machinery for registration, and yet the hon. gentleman proposes to change the whole basis upon which the voting of the country has been placed—namely, the assessment roll—and have for it the register substituted. He proposes that the executive for the time being shall control the whole system of registration.

Mr. Meredith—No, no.

Hon. C. F. Fraser—I suppose the hon. gentleman would put the control somewhere, and if he follows the lead of his Chief at Ottawa he would place it in the hands of the executive for the time being. Surely if the executive at Ottawa is fit to have the control of the registration of the country, then the executive of Ontario is equally fit to have the control of the registration of this Province. I say it is an improper thing that the executive should have control of the registration without regard to whether this Government is in power or any other. No executive should have the power to appoint the registrars, and yet there certainly would be required some machinery to carry out the provisions of the Act. Now the hon. gentleman complains that there are some provisions in this Bill which the people cannot understand, but I must say that there are clauses in the Bill of his Chief at Ottawa that I, as a lawyer, do not understand. The Bill now before the House is one I think that no one should have any difficulty in arriving at a knowledge of their meaning. The Bill is altogether based on the same lines that Franchise Bills have always been based on in this Province, namely, the assessment rolls, and it is just as simple—every line and word, as the Act now on the statute book. I therefore give my unqualified denial to the assertion or insinuation that there will be the slightest difficulty in carrying out the provisions of this Bill. There is only one difficulty in the matter at all, and that is with regard to the wage-earner, and I don't anticipate any serious trouble even in that direction. Now the hon. gentleman with all his ingenuity can only suggest that there may be some schoolmaster in this country who is not getting $300 a year, and who consequently will not be entitled to vote. Where is this schoolmaster who is not earning $300 a year? I venture to say that if he is not actually receiving $300 a year in cash, he is receiving something in lieu of it and equal to it, and therefore I say without fear of contradiction that every resident schoolmaster of the age of 21 will be entitled to vote under this measure. Then he says some may be sick, and therefore they will not be able to vote. Well, I undertake to say that if this manhood suffrage comes into force there will be some sick and then they will not be able to vote. Again he says that there will be some students at the university who will not be able to vote under the proposed safeguards and restrictions, but I may say as I said before that this cannot be for more than one general election, because if the Act were to go into force to-morrow—as the students are at the university for about four or five years—they could miss voting at only one general election. I venture the assertion that under this Bill there will be as many people entitled to vote as under any Bill for manhood suffrage which could be devised. Another reason for the passage of the Bill is found in the fact that if the proposal of the hon. gentleman were carried it would not be sufficiently considered in this session to be passed as a Bill, and it would have the effect of preventing the next local election being held under its provisions. He concluded by expressing the confident hope that the Bill would be supported by the House.

A vote was then taken on the amendment, which was lost by 42 to 30.

THE SOUDAN.

Reported Gradual Withdrawal of British Troops—Wolseley to Return Home—Advance of Graham's Troops.

A last night's London cable says:

The news from the Soudan continues to indicate the steady withdrawal of the British troops comprising the Nile expedition. Gen. Lord Wolseley and Gen. Sir Radvers Buller have arrived at Dongola. Gen. Wolseley will leave to-morrow for Cairo, accompanied by Lord Charles Beresford, R. N., the commander of the naval brigade. The general opinion is that both these heroes will arrive at London within a few weeks.

Military papers severely criticize Gen. Graham's conduct of the Suakim-Berber campaign.

It is believed five thousand Turkish troops will be sent to Suakim as soon as General Graham has succeeded in crushing Osman Digna. The Guards will then be withdrawn from the Soudan and sent to India.

A federation of Liberal associations has decided to actively oppose a continuous war in the Soudan. It is believed the Government is not unwilling to submit to party coercion. The opinion prevails that it will abandon the intention of a march to Khartoum, and after the defeat of Osman Digna it will endeavor to open up negotiations with the Mahdi.

Gen. Graham will advance to Tamai on Wednesday.

A kamsin began to blow at Dongola on Wednesday. The heat is excessive, but the health of the men with General Wolseley remains good. The Arabs are daily becoming more hostile to the British.

Unofficial advices say the transport service is very defective. The whole army is suffering, men, mules and camels being compelled to carry otherwise unnecessary burdens in the torrid heat.

Typhoid fever and dysentery are prevalent among the troops. At McNeill's zareba there have been many cases of fatal as well as disabling sunstroke.

General Graham and the British army arrived to-day at McNeill's zareba. The advance includes all the troops except 50 men from each regiment, who were left to garrison Suakim. The violence of a storm delayed movements considerably. Osman Digna's losses during the engagements of the week are estimated at 4,000 men.

The building of the Berber Railway has been suspended outside of Suakim, owing to the inability of the army to afford protection along the line beyond the camp. The force for such protection cannot be spared until after the battle at Tamai, which is expected to be decisive.

A Paris special says the trade depression in France is terribly severe, and that bread riots are feared in Lyons, Marseilles and Paris.