

PERSISTENCE IS REWARDED.

Mr. McDonald asked: Has this Government made any proposals to the Dominion Government, or any Minister of the Government with a view to the Territories or any part of them being formed into a Province or has any proposal been made by the Dominion Government to this Government? If any such proposal has been made or received, when was it made and by whom?

Mr. McDonald stated that, evidently by a printer's error, the words "or Provinces" were omitted from the question. These words should appear after the word "Province."

To each question the Premier answered No.

A GOOD WORD FOR THE NATIVES.

Mr. McKay (Prince Albert West) trusted that no immediate alarm would be caused in the east or elsewhere by this very commendable resolution. He regretted to see that in Parliament some romantic notion had been made of unrest in the Territories. No such unrest existed, and of course he knew that it was no expectation of any such trouble as was alluded to in Parliament that prompted the mover of the resolution. It was quite true that the North-West needed and had a right to militia organization just as civilized communities (London). But for the native population, he was proud to say that they were in a most peaceful state. For one hundred and fifty years, there had been but one single occasion of acute trouble between the natives in the North-West under British sovereignty and the lawful authorities, and he believed that that occasion would be the last. He was glad to support the motion. (Applause.)

Dr. Patrick, Yorkton, was sorry that the resolution did not fully set out the reason why the militia system should be extended to the Territories. We should not lose sight of the fact that one main reason for a militia system, apart from the reasons well presented in the motion, was this: That ultimate enforcement of law rests upon armed forces. When government was first established in the Territories such a force had been sent into the country, the North-West Mounted Police. In considering the proposition before the House we should not lose sight, either, of the grand work of that magnificent body, which in the early days bore responsibility almost wholly for the administration of the law. (Applause.) In any consideration of the subject now it would be well to remember that those early conditions have passed or are rapidly passing away. The Mounted Police were sent at a time, and because, there were no men in the country to organize an armed force. That time has surely passed. When the North-West is due to send five hundred men to South Africa, the country has surely reached a state when it can successfully deal with any matter of law enforcement at home. He was in hearty favor of the resolution, and wished to say that even before then Paul had dared to trespass against the rights and liberties of British subjects in British colonies in South Africa, the people of the town of Yorkton had prepared and forwarded a petition asking to be allowed to participate in the campaign against last fall by General Buller. The plan of raising a battalion of mounted rifles in the Territories. In his opinion the time had come when the enforcement of law and order in the North-West could safely be entrusted to armed forces raised within the Territories.

Mr. Buller was glad to have heard the words of the member for Yorkton, who made it plain that the resolution was in no sense meant as a comment on the necessity or lack of necessity of the Mounted Police force. Certainly this Assembly would never overlook the work done by that splendid force, whose members had been the pioneers of settlement and the promoters of civilization in these Territories, and had not only successfully met the demands of arduous regular duties week in and week out, but also had acted successfully with more than one emergency. The justification of the resolution was the undoubted right of the people of the Territories to bear arms. It was a reflection almost that we have not the militia system already. It looked as if we were not considered, it was certainly treating us as if we were not considered as equal with the people of the Provinces. There was another practical side, too, which might well be mentioned, the side which had in view the horse market. The raising of Mounted Rifles following on recent events was very likely to lead to the establishment of a re-mount station in the North-West. We can raise horses; the proof will be given as being given, today in South Africa. He trusted that the resolution would be unanimously agreed to.

Resolution agreed to, and an address to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor was adopted, praying him to cause transmission to the Secretary of State.