

in such manner as the government of that country shall prescribe. But this, Mr. Speaker, is a point on which it ought to be unnecessary to dwell at length, nor do I wish to detain the House by entering into more minute details on the general subject, though I do unhesitatingly assert that the sole and only result of our present system, whether persisted in for five, ten, or twenty years, will be to leave us in possession of a small and comparatively inefficient force, over whom we can have no proper control, for the self-same cost which might furnish us with double, quadruple, or octuple their number of disciplined militia, who would always be thoroughly at our disposal, and who, with the assistance we might expect from the mother country, would be able to maintain their ground right manfully against all comers. And I assert also, that while everything that has transpired—(outside the walls of this House, that is to say)—since the time of the Trent difficulty, has gone to show that the people of Canada, as a whole, are anxious and earnest to do *their* duty in this matter, loyal to their allegiance, ready to bear any burthen Ministers may see fit to impose for *that* object, those hon. gentlemen on the other hand have squandered most valuable opportunities and failed most deplorably in taking advantage of the facilities which the then temper of our people afforded them for making every reasonable provision for the defence of this Province. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, considering the circumstances under which those hon. gentlemen obtained power, this is not much to be wondered at—perhaps it may be that their factious folly on that occasion has tied their hands and prevented them from taking those steps which their better judgment would have dictated had they left themselves free agents on this question. Be that as it may, though I fear they have flung away chances which may never return, I do trust most sincerely that ere this session be brought to a close we shall see something like an adequate system of defence set on foot, and may be able to return to our homes with the knowledge that we have at last obtained some better safeguard against danger than our present most flimsy organization—some better security for peace than the guileless moderation of our Yankee neighbors—some better means of repelling attack than a revised militia muster roll.

#### D.

The figures from the Army Estimates for 1864-5 are as follows:—

1st. Clothing.....	£ 596,694 stg.
2nd. Provisions.....	520,301 "
3rd. Allowances and Pay.....	5,051,257 "
Total.....	£6,168,252 "

This includes pay of regimental staff, officers, cavalry and artillery, and a few other items not at all requisite to include in estimating the true cost of a foot soldier. Prices of provisions, fuel, and so forth, are also much higher at most stations than in Canada.

The number of men (exclusive of those serving in India) is 145,654 of all ranks, and the total vote demanded for them amounted in 1864-5 to £8,619,087 stg., of which about two millions and a half were for forage,