

IMPROVED ORDNANCE.

On the vote for "improved rifled ordnance, \$8,000," SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT asked how many guns is that intended to buy.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—Not very many. I wish we could have a larger number brought out every year. It is intended to purchase two 64-pounder rifle guns with standing carriages to cost £800 sterling each, including freight and transport from England. These guns are intended for the armament of fortifications. Every year we are trying to get out a few of these guns, which are considered of the first importance in so far as arming the fortifications of the country is concerned.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—I ask that question because I desire to know whether the Government has any scheme or plan for protecting our seaboard. It occurs to me that 64-pounder guns would be very little better than pop-guns as against an iron-clad squadron which might possibly bear down on our seaboard, either on the Pacific or the Atlantic. I am not very familiar with the power of penetration of the modern rifle ordnance, but I have seen some of those first-class iron clads, and I cannot conceive it possible that the 64-pounders could produce the smallest possible effect on them at any imaginable range that they might come within.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—I must admit that they are not the most improved ordnance, which, as my hon. friend knows, are very expensive. The question of the defence of the country has been given to a commission, which will report to the Government, and when the report is made it will be easier to explain what the policy of the Government will be on that point. It would hardly be prudent for me to give any opinion until the report of the experts composing the commission is made to the Government.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—I am quite aware that it is not within the power of the Government, on a vote of \$3,000, to obtain arms that would be of any effect against a hostile fleet. If that be the case, is it wise to expend our money on these 64-pounders?

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—The report of Col. Irwin, who is Inspector of Artillery, as well as the report of the General, agree that those guns are valuable for our purposes. It is considered that if we buy a few of those guns every year they will very much improve our defence.

LT.-COL. O'BRIEN—Might I ask the Minister of Militia what has been the result of the experiments carried on by Capt. Palliser with regard to the rifling of some of our old guns. Had those experiments been a success or not?

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—We entered into a contract for remodeling the guns, but it was not as satisfactory as we expected. The firm which we gave the contract to for the experiment got into difficulties and we could not carry out the experiments.

LT.-COL. O'BRIEN—Did the plan itself succeed?

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—The plan was reported as a good one by General Strange.

LT.-COL. O'BRIEN—If it is practicable to turn our old guns into modern ones it would be better than importing second-class guns from England.

DRILL SHEDS.

On the vote, "Construction and repairs of drill sheds, &c., \$75,000," SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT asked where does the hon. gentleman propose to expend this \$75,000. I suppose it is for the construction of drill sheds.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—Yes; and for repairs to military property. I can give the hon. gentleman the details of the amounts which is to be distributed over the Dominion. London, \$500; Toronto, \$1,700; Kingston, \$16,920; Ottawa, \$2,277; St. John, P. Q., and Montreal, \$3,970; Quebec, \$19,625; Fredericton, \$4,115; Halifax, \$385; Winnipeg, \$3,872; Victoria, \$650; Charlottetown, \$940.

MR. CAMPBELL—I notice in the list which the Minister of Militia has read that he has made no provision for the town of Chatham. I hope he has not forgotten that.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—I promised the hon. gentleman to look after the drill shed at Chatham and I mean to do so. The amount needed for that purpose will be taken out of the vote of \$22,000 for drill sheds and rifle ranges.

LT.-COL. KIRKPATRICK—I would ask the hon. minister if he proposed to add an hospital to the Royal Military College at Kingston, because I believe that it is a very necessary building in the college. If we are to have young men there we ought to have proper provision made for them in case of illness, and we ought to take steps to see that they are properly taken care of.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—Any amount for a building of that nature would have to be provided for in the estimates by my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works.

MR. McMULLEN—We have a company at Mount Forest in my constituency, but we have no drill shed. That company has been in existence a number of years, and I am rather induced to make an

application on its behalf after hearing the reply the minister made to my hon. friend from Kent (Mr. Campbell). I quite agree that in order to care for military stores it is necessary that there should be an armory. Some years ago we had something that answered the purpose, but it has not been in proper condition for a number of years, and a portion of the town hall has been used for that purpose, but it is not at all satisfactory, as there are not proper opportunities for drilling. That company has had a very good record, and I would like something to be done to secure it a drill shed.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—We do not generally give a drill shed for one company, but there is an order-in-council applying to all such cases, in which it is stated that if the locality gives a lot and contributes a certain amount of money, the Government will contribute a certain portion of the expenditure. I shall be very glad to send the hon. gentleman a copy of that order-in-council, so that he can see if it is possible to apply it to the case he mentions, and we can then talk the matter over together.

MR. TROW—I hope when the Minister of Militia is considering the subject of drill sheds he will not forget the city of Stratford. Our drill shed is out of repair, and our volunteers have to go to other quarters to drill.

MR. BARRON—I hope when the minister sends the order-in-council to some gentlemen on this side of the House, he will not forget me, because in my riding there is a place which, though not celebrated as a railway centre, is celebrated as possessing a university of which the hon. gentleman has no doubt heard; I refer to the village of Coboconk; and I have no doubt that place is entitled to a drill shed as much as some other places to which the hon. gentleman has granted money for that purpose. But I just want to read the remarks of Colonel Straubenzie regarding Peterboro' in reference to the matter I spoke of a few months ago. He said:

"I found the rifles much out of repair and have ordered them to be sent to Kingston for repairs. This corps is also under great disadvantages in having very bad armouries. A plan for a new armoury has already been submitted and which I hope will meet with the approval and sanction of the Honourable the Minister. There is great *esprit de corps* in this regiment, and officers and men are deserving of encouragement in a substantial form."

That bears out the private information I received, and I think the Minister of Militia ought to give this particular item his constant attention.

THE PERMANENT CORPS.

On the vote "Permanent Forces and Cavalry and Infantry Schools, \$484,000, Sir Richard Cartwright asked how is the hon. gentleman effecting this reduction of \$38,700?

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—If we establish a cavalry school in Toronto, we shall not require the whole amount this year, and there is a small amount remaining unexpended from last year. I hope to be able to keep within the reduced amount in the estimates.

LT.-COL. DENISON—I did not quite understand whether the Minister said that the reduction was on the cavalry school at Toronto or not; but if it is a reduction of the expenditure for permanent schools, I am rather pleased to see it, and I am in hopes that it may be transferred to the credit of the militia in general. The sum of \$38,000 would be sufficient to drill a great many more rural battalions which have in past years been neglected for want of funds. I think there is no expenditure in the country which would be more cheerfully granted than a sum to drill all the rural corps every year; and I hope the Minister of Militia, if he strikes this amount out of this item, will use it for general militia purposes. While on my feet I would like to say a word or two in reference to the schools. Under the present arrangement no person can enter one of these military schools without being either an officer of the force or a private. I think it would be in the interest of the militia of Canada if we reverted to the old system which we had in force some twenty years ago. Then it was possible for a gentleman to enter a school as a sort of cadet and get a certificate, and on his passing out he received the sum of \$50. This enabled him to pay for his board during the time he was in school, and on leaving he had quite as good a knowledge in almost every respect as a man leaving one of the existing schools. But what do we find now? If a young lad desires to get a certificate from the school, he has either to go to the expense of getting a uniform by commission, or else to put on a uniform and go into the barracks, where he will have to associate with those who belong to the permanent force. It is not always desirable—I need not point out why—for young lads to be thrown into a barrack room along with men older than themselves, who sometimes contract habits which are not very good. Under the old system numbers of young fellows went through the schools, got their certificates, and afterwards joined the militia as officers or otherwise; and even though they did not find their places in the militia, it was a great advantage to the country to have a large number of men who were drilled sufficiently to take command of troops in camp or barracks. At present there are only the two classes. If they go into the ranks they are taught the duties