

short time. I have learned from the public press, however, that the learned judge is supposed to have tendered his resignation and that I have refused to accept it, and have expressed the hope that he should remain on the bench. That is an entire mistake; and I further wish to say that the strictures in the press reflecting on myself in connection with the matter, and intimating that complaints had been made to me which would justify me in calling upon the learned judge to resign, are entirely groundless. No complaint has been made to the department, either by the public or the profession, as to any inconvenience resulting from the absence of the learned judge from duty. Personally I am opposed to a judge remaining in office and failing to discharge his duties. I am told that representations have been made to the learned judge by his colleagues that, out of respect to him, they are willing to discharge the judicial business during his absence. But I have no personal or official knowledge of that; I only know it from rumour.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I may state that if the matter remains as it is at present, and no intimation is given that Judge McDonald will resume the duties of his office, I shall deem it my duty, before the session ends, to take the opinion of the House as to such a state of things being allowed to continue.

#### OFFICIAL DEBATES—TRANSLATION.

Mr. BEAUSOLEIL (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, before you leave the Chair, I wish to call your attention to what is now going on with respect to the printing and distribution of the Debates of this House. The House was opened on the 26th January; we are now on the 10th February; 565 pages of the English version of the Debates are now printed and distributed, and not a single line of the French version has been as yet distributed. It is to be presumed that the House intend that the members belonging to one nationality or to the other should receive an equal treatment, and that the "Hansard" is not published for the exclusive information of English-speaking members, but also for the information of French-speaking members. It is hard to say where the blame lies. We are informed by the Chief Translator that he has translated upwards of 150 pages of the English version and that it is the Queen's Printer, or rather the Superintendent of the Printing Bureau who, for one reason or another, neglects or declines to print the French version. It will be agreed that it is neither fair nor reasonable that at this sixteenth day of the session, the French members should not have received a single line of the Debates published in their language, while the English members receive them day by day. I trust, Mr. Speaker, that you will cause this condition to cease, so that both sections in this House be put on an equal footing as regards the printing and publication of the Debates.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON.

Motion agreed to, and House again resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Pay of the staff of Permanent  
Corps of the Active Militia,  
including allowances ..... \$575,782

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I suppose the hon. Minister who has just taken charge of that department—a department which has been subjected for years past to very severe and proper criticism—will take this opportunity of explaining whether or not the department is to be continued on the same lines as during the past eight or ten years, or what changes will be made. Would the hon. gentleman inform us how far he intends adopting the suggestions made by the General with regard to the different branches of the service?

Mr. PATTERSON (Huron). My hon. friend will see that a change is made in the manner of submitting the items, so that Parliament will be better able to understand what each expenditure is for and what increases with regard to staff or the service may be required. In the present year, it will be seen from the total estimates, there is a slight reduction, as compared with last year, in the headquarters and district staff. In the first item, the one we are on, there is a total decrease, owing to the rearrangement of the staff, of nearly \$5,000.

Mr. O'BRIEN. Is the hon. Minister prepared to tell the House what is meant by this paragraph in the report of the Major-General commanding the forces. He says, speaking of the staff:

I have submitted details of a scheme for the reorganization of the staff, by which I propose to gain economy in administration, combined with a systematic instruction of staff officers in those important branches of their duty which have been hitherto ignored.

Will that scheme be laid before the House?

Mr. PATTERSON (Huron). There is a scheme, as suggested by the General, under consideration at present, and which will be submitted after it has been attended to by the Governor-General in Council.

Mr. AMYOT. I see in the Estimates a decrease of \$10,000 in the estimate of the cartridge factory in Quebec. Is it intended to bring about gradually the disappearance of that factory, because \$40,000 will not be sufficient to work it? This factory employs a hundred people and furnishes cartridges, at least as cheaply as they could be imported. If we do not manufacture our own cartridges, we will have to buy them from England, and thus be departing in that respect from the principle of the National Policy. We must not forget that we get the clothing of the militia made in this country. That clothing costs us more than we would have to pay if we brought it out from England, but we thus encourage home manufacture and give employment to our own people. The same principle should be applied in the matter of cartridges. I think there is a certain de-