

not to be out of reach of the units they instruct.

This increase to the permanent corps, say four squadrons of Canadian Mounted Rifles will of necessity be gradual, for it should, as already stated, follow the development of the active militia and not precede it. At the same time, it should not be forgotten that here, if anywhere the enormous influx of population containing, as it does, a large proportion of aliens brings into special prominence the duty imposed upon the militia of supporting the civil power—a duty which in that country, at first at any rate, would be more efficiently performed by a permanent body of troops.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I will pass as rapidly as possible over several items to which I desire to call attention. Before leaving this question of education I wish to say that the idea of a permanent central camp for the teaching of the officers of the active militia has not been abandoned, that further investigation has been made and that I am informed by the chief of the general staff that he hopes to be able to make a recommendation to me within a few days. He would have done so before this, but he has been engaged visiting the camps of instruction. I believe the choice lies between a site north of Ottawa known as Kazabazua on the railway line and a point to the westward near Pembroke known at Petawawa at either of which points sufficient land can be acquired at a very reasonable cost.

I was about to say something about the active militia but will only say now that we have not given up the idea of obtaining within the near future a force of at least 100,000 men who will be efficient and effective if required. The number of men, however, to be enrolled and trained annually is to be larger than was expected when I last discussed this matter in the House. It had been hoped a year or two ago that perhaps a maximum of 40,000 of the active militia might be sufficient to be expanded into a force of something over 100,000. I am now advised by General Lake that it will be desirable—and those who read the memorandum will observe what he said there—that the force should be between 50,000 and 60,000 in order to ensure its being suddenly increased or enlarged to 100,000.

Mr. TISDALE. I notice there is no commendation about that.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. No. Let me say in regard to the active militia that the experience of the present year has shown that the camps have been, as far as the quality of the men is concerned, the best camps we have ever had, and that the companies have been recruited in most cases to the full strength without difficulty. I hear on all sides the highest commendation of the working of the efficiency pay plan by which, although the pay nominally remains the same as it was before, 50 cents a day, there is an increase beginning with the first year of enlistment of 20 cents and increasing

during three years by 50 cents giving the militiaman at the end of the third year and as long as he chooses to remain or his services are required, \$1 a day, this extra pay being given only upon the condition that he is efficient in every way, that his behaviour is good and that he has attained certain proficiency in the use of the rifle. I believe that this expenditure although it involves a very large increase in the total vote, is the best investment that has been made in the militia up to this time. The same thing is true of the permanent force. The newspapers have stated that we have had great difficulty in getting recruits. That is not true. On the contrary we have no difficulty whatever and the quality of the material which is offering is very much better than we have ever had before.

Mr. TISDALE. How many attended the camps?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I am not able off-hand to give that information. The camps are not all concluded yet, but the percentage is very large. I understand that the attendance has been between 30,000 and 40,000. I now would like to be permitted in the fewest possible words to refer categorically to some of the improvements and changes which have taken place in the force within the last few years. I have already referred to the Militia Council. I have referred to the creation of higher commands; if not to-day, I have done it on a previous occasion.

The Royal Military College has been discussed during the present session and I have much pleasure in saying that we have now about thirty Royal Military College graduates in the permanent force and we have applications for a large number in addition, so that shortly we will have in the force between forty and fifty officers who are graduates of the Royal Military College—a most desirable result. Then I wish to refer to the creation of departments. The intelligence, engineering, ordnance and navy service corps and the medical services have all been created within the last few years. A militia pension law has been passed and has done very much indeed towards promoting the best interests of the permanent force, because it now ensures to a man who desires to follow a military career a living in the declining years of his life. Then, there are the limit of the tenure of command, the creation of a reserve of officers, higher educational standards for officers and opportunities of attending the staff college in England. A school of musketry has been established, rifle associations have been established all over the country both civil and military, and a school of gunnery is being established in Quebec. In connection with rifle shooting I may refer to the fact that the Militia Council were waited upon a few weeks ago by a deputation from McGill University asking that a special grant be