

way than in extending that school for the purpose I have indicated, so that young men who are willing to qualify and become good, efficient men, willing to be an example to those under them in the way of knowledge and discipline, could have rooms and lodgings at the school in order to be there from morning until evening, so that they could take advantage of every move and word of instruction that could be given to them.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I beg to say to my hon. friend that this request is a very proper and reasonable one. I will look into the matter at once; in fact, the hon. member has pressed the question on my notice already, and something is being done in that regard. With reference to what he has said about increased interest being taken in military matters in Quebec, I am able to testify to that fact, and I am very glad to notice that such is the case. The camp at Lévis this year, I heard from General Lake myself, was one of the best in the whole Dominion.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES. Taking advantage of the statement of the minister that he would be glad to answer any questions asked him in connection with this matter, I would like to ask whether he has experienced any difficulty in keeping up the numerical strength of the permanent force, or does he anticipate any difficulty when that force is increased?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. No.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES. Then I would ask another question. Is it according to the military regulations, or the militia rules of this country, practically possible for a young man of energy, ability and talent, entering as a militiaman, by application of the talent that he may possess, by industry, perseverance and good conduct, if he has natural ambition, is it practically possible for that man to attain any of the higher positions in the military service of his country?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. It is. I have much pleasure in telling my hon. friend that it is absolutely possible, and that only a very short time ago I remember two appointments being made of men who enlisted in the ranks. I have known some cases where perhaps very worthy men had endeavoured to secure positions by using influence from outside, which I think was a very undesirable thing to do, and which I think was objected to by the officers, because I am told by the officers in command of depots that if that kind of thing were permitted it would absolutely destroy all discipline in the depot. I am not thinking of any one in particular, but I know that that has happened. If men will go on simply attending to their business, without indulging in log-rolling, and bring themselves to the notice of their officers in the proper way, by attending to duty, they are absolutely

Mr. O. E. TALBOT.

certain if they have the necessary education, of course, to eventually secure promotion.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES. I am very glad to get that statement and that information, because I know that in some parts of the country a different impression prevails. I do not think anything could be more detrimental to the best interests of the service and to the young men of the country were any considerable portion to feel that because they do not perhaps occupy a certain social position they could not rise to the highest position to which their talents and education should call them in the military service of the country. In the continental armies, and in the British army I believe, a different system practically prevails. I have seen it stated that it was to that fact, to the indignity that had been heaped upon him by his brother officers, that Sir Hector Macdonald, who had risen from the ranks to occupy an important position in the British army, was driven to a suicide's grave, that many other men had suffered in a similar way, and that many worthy men had been prevented from rising in the service simply because of their social position; and I think it would not be in accordance with the genius and spirit and character of our people if anything like that prevailed in the military service of our country.

Mr. GERVAIS. Before the discussion closes I wish to say a few words by way of explanation on behalf of the Deputy Minister of Militia. From the discussion which has been going on for half-an-hour one might infer that the Deputy Minister of Militia had been interfering with the Department of Justice by giving an opinion outside of his departmental relation. As a matter of fact, in the correspondence which has been filed in regard to the question of the resignation of the hon. member for Sherbrooke as principal medical officer, it is shown that the Deputy Minister of Militia never interfered with the Department of Justice and never gave an opinion outside of the Department of Militia, but merely gave an opinion to Mr. Fiset, who was the medical director general in the department. When the Deputy Minister of Militia gave his opinion outside of the Militia Department, it was not, as Mr. Newcombe has said in his letter of March 15, 1905, of his own motion, but at the special request of the Minister of Justice. To support my statement, I will read the following letter:

Ottawa, November 22, 1905.

Dear Col. Pinault,

I send you herewith letter which I have received from Mr. H. R. Fraser, Sherbrooke, re the right of Dr. Worthington, M.P., to accept certain pay as a medical officer in No. 6 district. I have told Mr. Fraser that his letter has been sent to you. Will you be good enough to send him the necessary answer.

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) C. FITZPATRICK.