

and could be called upon for active service, if required. It is time that this Dominion should assert its position in the world, and show that it is able to take care of itself. When there was a prospect of war in the East recently, we were in a very unprepared state if it had broken out. There are two things we ought to be prepared for: that is, to protect our coal deposits on the Atlantic, and our coal deposits on the Pacific. Both our own commerce and the commerce of the Empire would greatly depend on those deposits of coal, and they would have to be protected so that Her Majesty's steamers would be able to coal at any time. This would give them a superiority over every other power, and we have more at stake than any other country, in consequence of the immense fleet both of Great Britain, and of the Dominion. I would suggest, therefore, whether it would not be desirable that instead of allowing the men to go back into civil life after three years' training, it would not be better to keep them enrolled, and to so change the law as to continue their enrolment for three years, which would increase the force of active militia to 90,000 men, who have already passed through their regular training. We are now a people of some 5,000,000 population, and it is a question whether we ought not to keep such a force, and have it ready for any emergency. I have no doubt, and there seems not to be any doubt in any quarter, that a war with Russia is imminent. She has been preparing for it for half a century. Within a very short time she has advanced 1,000 miles nearer the Indian frontier, and there is now only one territory, that of Afghanistan, between her and India.

HON. MR. KAULBACH—I quite agree with my hon. friend in what he has said. I am not in harmony with any person who may wish to throw discredit upon our police force in the North-West. I believe they have been very efficient. I know a number of them from Nova Scotia and they are good men, and from what I have heard of those from the other provinces a better class of men could not be selected in the country for such service. When we proposed the establishment of "A" and "B" batteries, the Opposition were opposed to it; but events have

proved how fortunate it was that we had this nucleus of a regular army ready to send to the North-West at the breaking out of the rebellion. The question for the country now, is whether our defences will not have to be greatly increased.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—The occurrences in the North-West last spring have demonstrated that the present system is not equal to our necessities. Though our volunteers have done their duty, and have shown themselves equal to the emergency, many of them are married men, and after the war is all over we will be at great expense to provide pensions to widows and orphans. I would suggest that a better system would be to have certain companies of unmarried men recruited from the other companies of the force, to be drilled so many days in the year, so that in an emergency like that of last spring, they would be always ready for active service, and they would have no families to be supported by private contribution, and in case of death they would leave no one dependent upon public assistance.

HON. MR. POWER—One objection that I have to this measure is that it is calculated to very largely increase the expenses connected with the protection of this country. The other day we passed a bill which provides for an increase of the Mounted Police force to 1,000 men. I understand from the Minister that each of these men will cost about \$800 a year. Now we are providing for an increase of the standing army to 1,000 men, and I presume the cost of each man will be about the same. Hon. gentlemen will see then that we have at once for the mere *personnel* of our standing army—because after all the Mounted Police force are really part of the standing army—an annual expenditure of \$1,600,000. Now this is very nearly double what the service used to cost the country ten years ago. When the Bill was at the second reading I suggested that it was not desirable to make the addition to the force all infantry. The experience of the recent outbreak has shown that the great want of the country is cavalry. I think it is a pity that the Government, when they were making provision to increase the army at all, did not