

finished. It does not matter much in any case. It will never do anything.

Militia Department—pay and allowances, \$1,500,000.

Hon. Sir FREDERICK BORDEN (Minister of Militia and Defence). I suggest that item 71 be allowed to stand as I wish to make a statement upon it which will take some time and other members will probably wish to speak upon it.

Mr. TAYLOR. I am quite sure that the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) will want to discuss several items, but he is not present and will wish to be present when the minister makes his statement.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. That is one reason I did not wish to make it to-night. It will be understood that any militia item may be discussed on the item we are leaving, No. 71. Item No. 72, pay and allowances, is for the permanent force. The full vote is \$1,500,000. The total number of the permanent force at present is about 3,000.

Mr. WARD. What is the increase of \$100,000.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. There has been an increase of about 300 in the force since last year.

Salaries and wages, \$85,000.

Mr. TAYLOR. There is an increase of \$15,000.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Last year \$15,000 was included in the supplementary estimates.

Mr. BENNETT. I would ask the minister if he has seen the following item in the Toronto 'Globe'?

If there is any part of the provincial expenditure upon which the pruning-knife can properly be used, it is the militia estimates. We are not at war, nor likely to become so. We are threatened with bankruptcy—the only way of averting it is to reduce the expenditure—and there are comparatively few items upon which economy can be used, without injury to the public interests. If the whole militia service was suspended for one, two or three years, the injury done to the country would be so infinitesimal as to be unworthy of notice.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I had not seen it, I will look it up. I did not suppose the Toronto 'Globe' would publish anything so nonsensical as that. Is it an editorial?

Mr. BENNETT. It is quoted in the 'Globe' newspaper of July 2nd. It is a reproduction from the 'Globe' of 1858, 50 years ago, but it is strongly ominous, it is a case of history repeating itself and I think the public will think so.

Mr. WHITE. At page Q—52 of the Auditor General's Report I find an item

Mr. BENNETT.

under Petawawa camp, Savage, W. J., painting \$900. Was that work done by tender and were there any other tenders received?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. By tender called by public advertisement. In all the work at Petawawa tenders were asked by public advertisements in the newspapers.

Military properties—construction and repairs, \$258,750.

Mr. TAYLOR. There is an increase of \$45,000 there.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. This includes repairs and rifle ranges, barracks and ordnance stores, &c., and these requirements are annually increasing. The number of rifle ranges is increasing each year and the outlay is increasing somewhat.

Mr. J. D. REID. The permanent force is now about 3,000. How many were there eight or nine years ago?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. About 800 or 900.

Mr. J. D. REID. It has increased about fourfold.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. (Between three and fourfold. There is an increase for Halifax and Esquimalt alone of 1,500. That is the principal increase.

Repairs to Quebec cliffs and walls, \$40,000.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. This is done by day labour. It is the usual vote.

Mr. TAYLOR. I trust the minister will put in an appropriation to enable him to repair the military buildings at Kingston. There is a good deal of money spent at Quebec in one way and another, but the Kingston fortifications are allowed to go to ruin. A few years ago a comparatively small expenditure would have put the military property there in good shape.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. That is a matter which must be taken up very soon unless we are to allow the whole of that property to go. I found it out of repair and almost abandoned when I came to office. An unsuccessful attempt was made by General Herbert to utilize some of the rooms at Fort Henry. I have had an examination made by engineers within the last year, but I have not yet had an opportunity of looking into the report. I think there will be some small items in the supplementary estimates for some of the works at Kingston to which my hon. friend refers, particularly for the wall bordering the military property.

Mr. WHITE. I would like to know whether the lowest tender was accepted for the painting of these buildings to which I have referred. I understand that several firms in the town of Pembroke tendered, but the Kingston firm got the contract.