

than six miles away their expenses are to be paid coming and going. Probably when the Minister of Militia comes to deal with the matter he will be able to tell us how much that would increase our 35,000 men.

THE MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. About 75,000.

Hon. Mr. TISDALE. That would add 400 to the eight company regiments and give a very respectable unit. I hope that all hon. members will seriously consider this suggestion and explain in their different localities that this is not a ballot in the ordinary sense. It is not unfair to those who will never go out, but who will benefit by the education given those men who deserve and by the expenses they have to go to. The greatest difficulty will be on the part of those who, owing to the nature of their business, cannot get leave of absence from their employers to go to camp. A much greater number of men will thus obtain a knowledge of how to handle the rifle and to shoot at long range, which is a difficult thing to learn, and on which we must depend for our success in case of war. Most of the fights in South Africa have been decided at long range. This suggestion shows considerable courage on the part of the general because it is rather repugnant to the spirit of our people to be drafted unless when the necessity of war comes upon us. This is rather a casting of lots to see who shall learn how to use the rifle and for how long a time, rather than a ballot, and the services of these men thus balloted will only be called upon in case of war. The fact of their going out for the purpose of getting a knowledge of shooting and obtaining this free ammunition does not make a man liable to turn out except in case the country is put on a war basis to meet some emergency.

Then we require the necessary material in the proper shape to enable us to wage war or to defend our country, and I will therefore read the general's recommendation with regard to magazines and stores. He says :—

(11) I have again to urge the necessity of providing magazine and store accommodation in western Canada.

Decentralization is admittedly one of the principles of up-to-date military administrations, but as yet in Canada we have made little advance in this direction, and as regards ammunition we have but one arsenal and reserve magazine, and that so located at an extremity of the country, as to combine the maximum of inconvenience in peace and of difficulty and danger in time of war. I hold it to be absolutely essential to the efficient defence of Canada that reserve magazines be without delay provided for the supply of the troops in military districts Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 and 10; and there is no military doubt that a second arsenal for the manufacture of ammunition is most necessary, the capacity of the existing arsenal working at full power scarcely exceeding that required to meet the annual requirements of the troops.

Hon. Mr. TISDALE.

As regards stores for equipment, the chief superintendent of stores urged in his report last year the provision of new and more extensive buildings at Kingston and Toronto, and in supporting his views I would strongly recommend that the Tete-de-Pont barracks at Kingston, which are very ill-suited for the accommodation of troops, be converted into a depot for clothing, equipment and warlike stores, other than ammunition, for which the existing buildings with slight alterations would be very suitable. If this were done new barracks could be provided for the field artillery school, which I consider to be most necessary, as those now in occupation by the troops are deficient of most of the requirements of a modern barracks, and to bring them up to a reasonable degree of comfort and convenience would, even if practicable, cost so much as to render the construction of a modern and thoroughly sanitary barrack an economy in the end, and moreover, it would, I feel confident, make service in the field artillery much more popular.

While on this subject it is my duty to point out the need of 'mobilization stores' at the headquarters of military districts, in which should be held a complete equipment for each unit in the district, sufficient to enable it to take the field. These stores should be held in charge by the district officer commanding, and without such a distribution of warlike stores and a thorough decentralization of the store branch, rapid and successful mobilization for war is an absolute impossibility.

No matter how well trained may be the personnel of an army its practical efficiency for war must be measured by the rapidity with which it can be brought to a war footing and placed in the field as a perfect fighting machine. This is simply a matter of administration on up-to-date lines in time of peace, and the first step necessary to this end is to locate the necessary material where it is required for issue to the troops, and thus avoid a hurried distribution with, as a rule, confusion and miscarriage, should the emergency arise.

I venture to hope that the great importance of this feature in military administration may commend it to earnest consideration, and that the provision of a western reserve magazine, and, if possible, a secondary arsenal may be provided at the earliest practicable date.

While on this subject, I wish to call the attention of the minister to the report of the superintendent of the Dominion arsenal or cartridge factory. He says :

On different occasions, it has been proposed, by well-meaning but misinformed persons, that another cartridge factory should be erected in the western part of the Dominion. It may be well to explain that our present establishment is equal to meeting all actual requirements, and that orders received are so small it is just possible to keep together an effective working staff. A division of the work, by erecting another factory, would mean starvation and disaster to both. The strategical reasons urged against the situation of this arsenal are not well grounded.

I am glad to say the minister is already committed in his opinion, and it agrees with that of the general, that it is almost indispensable that we should have a western arsenal at the very first possible moment. The superintendent of the factory seems to disagree with both the minister and the general. But I will not take up the time of