

seen delay that the exchange has not been carried into effect. Sir Charles Parsons has manifested the very greatest interest in the Canadian militia during the whole time that he has been in Canada, has been most sympathetic, has co-operated in every possible way and is doing so at this moment, so that we have asked Sir Charles Parsons if he would not remain in Halifax for a few months after the transfer takes place in order to further co-operate and assist our officers in getting full charge, in getting initiated, if I may so speak, into that important command. So, I do not apprehend any difficulty whatever.

Mr. DANIEL. May I ask the hon. minister if the imperial authorities will hand over the armament and equipment of the Halifax defence to Canada without payment or anything of that kind?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. That matter has not been discussed at all, and I think that perhaps I had better not offer an opinion. I feel quite sure we will be treated in a most liberal and considerate manner by the imperial authorities. Some reference in the papers has been made to the stores and things of that kind but no reference has been made to the heavy armament. I should rather think that it might be taken as a matter of course that the armament, being there, would remain. It will probably remain the property of the imperial government but I do not apprehend that any difficulty whatever will arise on that score. As far as the stores are concerned, clothing, equipment or anything of that kind, if we take them over it will be at a fair valuation. If we do not wish them they will be removed by the imperial authorities.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Do you mean armament such as the big guns on Macnab's Island, at York Redoubt and the forts on the Dartmouth shore where there are some very heavy and modern guns? Some of these works have been constructed within the last two or three years. I refer particularly to the fort at York Redoubt. Does the hon. minister anticipate that the guns will be left in charge of our troops, that our troops will man these forts and that the defences of the city will be kept practically in the condition they are at present?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Yes, that is the expectation.

Mr. FOSTER. The same at Esquimalt?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Yes.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. It was suggested to me by a very high authority at one time in informal conversation that if Halifax ceases to be a naval base there would be no great object in keeping up the elaborate defences which exists at present, that they have been maintained there because Halifax has been a naval base and that if the base is to be

Sir F. W. BORDEN.

transferred to Bermuda there would be no reason why they should be continued.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. You will observe in the papers which have been laid on the table of the House a telegram. I think that my hon. friend the leader of the opposition asked some question in the House.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I did on one occasion earlier in the session.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Well, on the strength of that discussion a cablegram was sent to the Governor General. It is amongst the papers.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Is it amongst the papers which have been furnished to us?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Yes.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I did not observe it.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. It is only a brief one and I will read it:

February 24th, 1905.—Referring to your cable of 11th instant, general officer commanding was not authorized to begin dismantling present defences of Halifax.

My information is that there is no intention whatever of abandoning Halifax as a naval base, but that it will be used in a different way from what it has been. I think it is the intention and expectation of the imperial authorities that Halifax shall be preserved in all its strength and importance.

Now I was referring to the increases as between this year and last year and the principal increase is in this very matter of the permanent force. I think I might read an extract from the memorandum prepared by the financial member of the council.

Allowing 1,400 troops for Halifax during 1905-6 the cost would amount to \$850,000; and 350 for Esquimalt, about \$200,000. After the first year the annual cost should not be so heavy as the charge for barrack and hospital equipment applies to the first year only, while the item for clothing would be reduced to about \$80,000, the estimate for 1905-06 being practically a two years' supply of the ordinary clothing and a three years' supply of great coats and necessaries. The annual cost of say 1,800 men at Halifax and Esquimalt should not exceed the following:

The total is given as \$1,000,000.

The estimates of the War Office for Halifax and Esquimalt, 1905-06, the number of troops being 1,389 and 362 respectively, are as follows:

The total is given as £181,168 equal to \$881,684. I presume the difference in pay will account chiefly for a difference of some \$150,000. The hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) and the hon. member for Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale), when the estimates were under discussion before, asked for information in regard to this very point. I do not know whether that statement contains all the information they require or not, but I think I was asked in addition to this what