

without amendment, and it was then read he third time and passed.

CONSOLIDATED MILITIA ACT,
1883, AMENDMENT BILL.

SECOND READING.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL moved the second reading of Bill (152) "An Act to amend the Consolidated Militia Act of 1883." He said—This is a Bill to enable Her Majesty to raise, in addition to the present service, an active militia force which may be any number of men not exceeding 1,000, to be divided into such corps as Her Majesty may from time to time direct. So far as I have been able to understand from the Minister of Militia, it is not intended to increase the force beyond the establishment of additional military schools, one particularly in Winnipeg to be composed of two branches of the service, the cavalry branch, and the infantry branch. It is also contemplated to establish another school, possibly in the Province of Quebec, but at all events it is with reference to these schools that this force is intended to be provided. The preservation of the peace in the North-West it is proposed to entrust to the Mounted Police and to the force which may be established under this Act in connection with the military school in Winnipeg. The Bill consists of only one clause, and I move that it be read the second time at length at the table.

HON. MR. SCOTT—Perhaps my hon. friend would explain—I have not the statute at hand—the number of men authorised to be raised.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—Seven hundred and fifty.

HON. MR. SCOTT—This Bill provides for an increase of 250?

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—Yes.

HON. MR. SCOTT—Is it proposed to increase the force to 1,000?

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—I understand that it is to be limited to 1,000 men altogether.

HON. MR. POWER—I think the course suggested by the hon. member from Ottawa when we were dealing with a bill to provide for an increase of the Mounted Police force was wise. I do not see why it is necessary to maintain so many military schools but I think a portion of the force—one at all events of the two batteries kept down here—might be kept in the North-West, and I do not see the wisdom of the provision of this Bill which is that there shall be two more companies of infantry added. If it is necessary to have one infantry company for the purpose of establishing the military school, one at least of the two additional companies ought to be a cavalry company. If the difficulties in the North-West have taught us anything it is that infantry are of comparatively little value in that country. What is the most needed now is a strong and effective cavalry force, and I fail to see what necessity there is for two more companies of infantry or the wisdom of adding to our infantry force and leaving the cavalry force as it stands.

HON. MR. OGILVIE—If there is one thing I should speak upon it is certainly this of the North-West Mounted Police.

HON. MR. POWER—This is not the Bill.

HON. MR. OGILVIE—I know it is not the Bill but it is partially connected with it, and I say this, the more powers we can give to the officers of the North-West Mounted Police force the better you will be serving your country. They have been found specially qualified for that North-West service. There is no man appointed there, that I know of, who has not served in, and knows all about the country to which his duty calls him. That being the case, they are the men that we should promote as officers if we can possibly do so. It may not be always possible to appoint officers from the force that is out there; but I know individually that in a great many cases it is possible, and that it would be advantageous to appoint the best men who have served for years and years in that force, and know the country and the difficulties of the position from beginning to end. I know all about them myself; I know the men