

Estimates every year. But, notwithstanding that fact, we had to have a committee before we could get the clause into the Bill. What is proposed now is to increase the number of men to whom the rate shall be applicable, to make it 1,000 instead of 750, and thus to increase the public charge. Parliament did not say that the Government shall have any definite power of raising the number of men at their will. Parliament said: You may raise and pay 750 men at this rate, and we know what we propose to do. But if you now add one-third to the number of the men you add one-third to the public charge, and that you do without a preliminary resolution.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Perhaps so, but would it not be better to ascertain the facts by seeing what that resolution was. I have not seen it. Perhaps the resolution was only to determine the rate for each man without determining the number.

Mr. BLAKE. That is so.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. If the resolution did not state that it was a force of 750 men, I think we could go on with this in the same way.

Mr. BLAKE. The resolution had reference to the legislation before us. We had a Bill before us authorising the creation of a force not exceeding 750 men, and we had a resolution before us authorising the pay for the force at such rates, therefore we had the whole effect of the proposal before us. That is not the case now.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Yes, we have the number of men and the rate that is fixed by law to be paid them.

Mr. CARON. I beg to remind the leader of the Opposition that these resolutions state that no sum of money shall be paid without being included in the Estimates. The rate of pay which was introduced into the Bill was to fix the salary that would be given to the officers and men. As it now stands we could have paid the officers and men belonging to the different schools out of the sum voted by Parliament for the ordinary militia; but this Bill does not preclude the Minister of Militia from paying the schools of infantry and the schools of gunnery out of the ordinary sum voted by Parliament every year for militia purposes; consequently I thought, and I think now, that it was not necessary to initiate the Bill by a preliminary resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER. I find on the Journals of 1883 that a resolution was then introduced, on which a clause in the Militia Act was founded, which regulated the rate to be paid to the various branches of the service. The resolution was:

"That it is expedient to provide that the pay of the officers and men of the active militia land force, for each day's drill of three hours, under section 45 of the Bill to consolidate and amend the laws affecting the militia of Canada."

But that is not the section which is now being amended. The section now being amended is section 21 of the Consolidated Militia Act, and that does not appear to have been founded upon a resolution. That clause provides that a certain number, not exceeding 750 men, may be enlisted for continuous service out of the force authorised by the Act. Now it is proposed to empower the Department to increase that force to a number not exceeding 1,000, but the pay for that force has to come before the House by a Message and be voted annually, and if it is not voted annually the force cannot be paid and will have to be disbanded. I do not think, therefore, under these circumstances, that it is necessary that this clause should be founded upon a resolution.

Bill read the second time on a division, and the House resolved itself into Committee.

Mr. BLAKE.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. CARON. In order to make it perfectly clear I propose, after the word "for," to add the following words: "periods of three years of continuous service."

Mr. BLAKE. I think the original clause provided for a division into three corps. The present proposal is very much larger, because it proposes to give power to divide this 1,000 men into as many corps as you see fit. Is it the intention to take that power deliberately and to divide this number into more than five different corps?

Mr. CARON. This is the reason why I put this into the Bill: Take, for instance, the school at Winnipeg. It was the intention to organise a corps of 150 men. This year I do not propose to organise a corps stronger than 100 men. But it may be necessary, in view of the situation, instead of having one corps of 100 men, for instance, to have one of 200 men. I thought that if Parliament knew that the Department could not go beyond the strength of a 1,000 men, it would leave discretion to the Department to divide that force as circumstances might require.

Mr. BLAKE. That does not answer my question. The hon. gentleman's point is concentration; mine is division. His original Act provided for not more than three companies of infantry. What the hon. gentleman suggests is that, although he wants to take power to have 250 more men who may make two companies of infantry nominally, he may wish to have those 250 under one command and at one place. That would still be accomplished if he provided that there should be not more than five companies of infantry. But by the proposal he now makes he takes power, by dividing the force, to have seven, eight or ten companies of infantry. If you have troops at different points, it is impossible to maintain them at the same expense as if they were all at one point. I do not see any objection to the whole five companies being at one point at one time, and although the Minister's intention is to have them at London and Winnipeg, he might have them all at Winnipeg for a time. By his present proposal the hon. gentleman may divide the force into ten companies instead of five, and have them at ten different points, and then the expenditure would be increased.

Mr. CARON. The intention really is to create two new companies of infantry. I have no objection to insert that in the Bill—the force to be divided into such corps as is provided by clause 21 of the Consolidated Act of 1883, with the addition of two companies of infantry.

Mr. BLAKE. Is this the whole provision which the hon. gentleman proposes to submit to Parliament this Session with respect to the North-West militia force?

Mr. CARON. It is. When the Estimates were up I had occasion to state that the corps which were organised in the North-West during the troubles as permanent corps will be retained as part and parcel of the militia force. But outside of the 91st and 92nd, the militia will not be increased beyond what is contemplated by this Bill.

Mr. BLAKE. I think the reports of the hon. gentleman's local officers and of the officer who is commanding the forces confirm the fact which I have dealt upon, the extreme importance of the formation of local corps and perhaps of mounted infantry corps in various points of the North-West. My opinion is that special attention should be given to the formation of those corps, and that in a country sparsely settled as that, with settlements so remote, it is of extreme consequence that this subject should be dealt with, and dealt with this Session.

Mr. CARON. I call the attention of the leader of the Opposition to the fact that the corps which it is contem-