

I assume that it means that the garrisons at Halifax and Esquimalt will be maintained effectively as garrisons. My hon. friend is aware that these are important naval stations, and he may wish to know how far, in the direction of maintaining them as naval stations, we propose to go. I am not able to answer that question, because it will be a matter of subsequent negotiations. But, speaking in a general way, I should think that the government would expect to expend what money is necessary to maintain and hold against all comers those two fortresses.

Mr. STOCKTON. One reason why I asked the question was this: I understand that since negotiations were entered into between this government and the British government, and since this government had consented to take charge of those fortresses, the works at Esquimalt had been, to a large extent, dismantled by the imperial authorities and a lot of the material sold. I do not know whether the information is correct, or not, but I understand that purchasers came all the way from San Francisco to purchase the metal and material of that kind that was to be sold by the imperial authorities before they vacated the fortress. If that is so, we can readily understand that it would be very much better for this government to make the purchase itself, and allow everything to remain in statu quo, than to let the fortress be dismantled and then go to the expense of renewing the equipment.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I have heard such stories as my hon. friend mentions, both as regards Esquimalt and Halifax.

Mr. STOCKTON. I did not understand that with respect to Halifax, only to Esquimalt.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I have seen the same story published in the newspapers with regard to Halifax. General Lake, the chief of the general staff, visited Halifax not long ago and was instructed to inquire into everything connected with that fortress, and he assures me that there is not a word of truth in the story; and I fancy that there is no truth whatever in the story with reference to Esquimalt. It does not seem likely that the imperial government, after agreeing to hand over these fortresses to Canada, would sell anything that was of use or was required for the purpose of equipment. The British government is in the habit of selling obsolete guns and obsolete equipment to get rid of them. It might be that they wished to get rid of some obsolete equipment in these fortresses, or something of that kind.

Mr. BLAIN. I would like to ask the minister if he has any information with respect to the amount of money that has been expended by the British government in Halifax and Esquimalt, and the probable ex-

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penditure per annum that Canada will have to make?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I would suggest that we had better push on with the statement as rapidly as we can, and later on, when we reach the stage of considering the items, I will try to answer all the questions my hon. friend may desire to put. At six o'clock I was discussing the question of the permanent force as a teaching agency, and was looking for a quotation which I wished to make from the memorandum which I laid on the table prepared by the military members of the council. I will proceed to read that:

As regards the two former, the establishment of the permanent corps, as at present authorized by Order in Council, is 1,995 of all ranks. The establishment of the active militia as authorized by Order in Council is 46,000, to which should be added the batteries of field artillery and the ammunition park nucleus authorized by special general order of 9th May, which raises the total to about 47,000 men. . . . On the militia forces of the Dominion as a whole must necessarily fall the two main duties of support to the civil power and defence of the country against foreign aggression.

In addition to this duty, which it shares with the whole of the active militia of the Dominion, there falls to the permanent corps, in which term may be included the permanent staff of the militia, the additional duty of being the instructors of the active militia, of maintaining the standard of military knowledge in the country, and of furnishing that permanent element in the garrisons of the forty-five naval bases already mentioned, which is necessary for their protection against sudden attack, as well as for the preservation of their valuable armament and works of defence. This latter duty is in its essence merely a continuation of the duty imposed upon the permanent corps by article 28 of the Militia Act of 1886.

In considering these several duties, and in framing a policy with regard to the militia calculated to enable that force to fulfil them, the military members have had to consider all three requirements from the point of view, not merely of what was in the military sense best, but what was also from a national point of view financially and politically possible. . . .

In considering the establishment of the permanent force it must be borne in mind that the creation of those, indispensable adjuncts to an armed force which are known as the departments of an army, those branches which are responsible for feeding it, equipping it with munitions of war and stores of all kinds, for paying it and for providing for the care of the sick and wounded, is in the Canadian militia of only very recent date. The same is true of the engineer arm. So far, indeed, both the engineer arm and these departments are almost in their infancy, and if the militia force is ever to be in a condition to take the field and remain there, it will be necessary that proper provision for the instruction of the active militia in these directions should be provided for.

As the raising of this force proceeds, it will be necessary, in view of the magnificent distances of that country (that is the Northwest), to provide additional schools of instruction besides the squadrons already mentioned at Winnipeg and the 'Strathcona Horse,' if they are