

assume that as large a number as we have sent have served out their time.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Who is in command there?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Sir Charles Parsons. There has been no change yet. I think that really that is where the difficulty comes in. I may say that since the papers were laid on the table a communication has been received upon the question of relative rank. This is being considered by the Militia Council; and I fancy that when an agreement is reached as to the relative rank of imperial and militia officers the transfer will be made very quickly thereafter. I do not really know the contents of that despatch, not having had an opportunity yet to read it carefully.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Of course, what I am trying to get is the practical situation at Halifax—how long it is likely to continue as at present. Sir Charles Parsons has been in command of the imperial forces there. We send down 300 men under command, as I understand it, of Colonel Drury. These replace, perhaps, a certain number of men of the imperial army—that does not matter. But what is the relation at present of Colonel Drury and the men under his command to Sir Charles Parsons and the men under his command? Is Colonel Drury under command of Sir Charles Parsons? And are the men under Colonel Drury regarded as part of the imperial force under command of Sir Charles Parsons? What is the practical situation?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The practical situation, as I understand, is that the conditions have really not been disturbed. Sir Charles Parsons is still in command of the garrison. But we have sent troops to Halifax under Colonel Wadmore and subject to Colonel Drury, who are co-operating with the imperial forces and are commanded by Canadian officers. So that there are two separate parts of the garrison at Halifax, you may say—one commanded by the imperial authorities and one by the Canadian authorities.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I understand that the situation amounts to this: There is an imperial force at Halifax under command of Sir Charles Parsons and also a Canadian permanent force under command of Colonel Drury. But it does not seem to me that any situation of that kind has been contemplated. I suppose there is no practical difficulty, however, up to the present time with regard to the matter?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. None whatever.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. If it were in time of war, I suppose the senior officer, whoever he might be, would take command?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Yes.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Where are these Canadian troops—in the imperial barracks?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Yes.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. If they are in the imperial barracks, and not under command of Sir Charles Parsons, the situation may develop into a comedy situation if we are not careful.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I see no difficulty so long as they are friendly.

Mr. WORTHINGTON. Has Colonel Drury one of the higher commands? Is he in command of the Nova Scotia district, as in the case of the higher commands in Ontario and Quebec?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Precisely.

Mr. WORTHINGTON. Would he not then have supreme command in the province?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. He will have. Until the negotiations between the imperial authorities and ourselves—which are entirely friendly—are concluded, we are not insisting on these fine points. We are getting along with the utmost friendliness. We sent the troops to Halifax on the suggestion of the imperial authorities, and we expected that the garrison would be handed over to us by the 1st of July.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The men have gone there, and a situation has developed which was not provided for exactly, and the minister is trying to work along with it as best he can until matters are arranged and what has been contemplated is carried out.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The Canadian troops at Halifax are in the same position as the rest of the militia—just as the militia might be sent from anywhere to Halifax or Esquimalt. They are not attached to the imperial troops in any way at the present time. Among the papers laid on the table is a letter, dated 25th May last, from the War Office, which says:

War Office, London, S.W.,  
25th May, 1905.

Sir,—I am commanded by the Army Council to inform you that it is observed in the 'Canada Gazette,' G. O. 65, dated 14th April last, certain officers of the Canadian military forces have been appointed to the command of districts in the Dominion.

As it is presumed that the Halifax command will shortly be incorporated in the maritime provinces command, to which Colonel C. W. Drury, C.B., R.C.A., has been appointed, I am to request that the Dominion government may be asked to inform Major General Sir C. S. B. Parsons, K.C.M.G., as soon as his services are no longer required, so that he may return to this country.

I am, &c.,  
(Sgd.) R. H. BRADE.

I infer from that letter that there should be no difficulty; it is only a matter of unfore-