

Mr. BLAKE. But the regular army? My hon. friend from Digby (Mr. Vail) shows me that nine troops of cavalry which turned out last year averaged forty-six, from which I presume that a full troop is fifty. The hon. gentleman will find it in his report, on page 24.

Mr. CARON. They may have turned out an average of forty-six, but this was then over-strength. The hon. gentleman will find that by referring to the regulations that our troop consists of thirty-four or thirty-five. I refer to regular troops in the service. In very many instances, not only as far as cavalry is concerned, but in other branches of the service, there may be cases where an over-strength in the battalion or company, or whatever it may be, occurs; and it may be that in this particular instance they may have turned out over-strength.

Mr. BLAKE. It does not appear that this was a particular instance, but nine separate troops turned out with a number very nearly as much again as the hon. gentleman says is the strength. However, I do not dispute these things with the hon. gentleman, because I confess I do not have a great knowledge about them.

Mr. CARON. If the hon. gentleman will allow me to interrupt him. Of course, I have not the figures before me; but the hon. gentleman may not find forty-six horses in a troop of cavalry. If the hon. gentleman from Digby, who also seems to have studied this subject, would tell me exactly what information he wants to get about this troop of cavalry, I will be perfectly willing to supply it; but the hon. gentleman will see that in a troop of cavalry, as in a battery, all the men are not mounted.

Mr. BLAKE. No.

Mr. CARON. A certain number of men, besides the mounted men, is required. Of course, I am merely speaking without any reference to any statement made by the hon. gentleman; but I have no doubt that the hon. gentleman will not find troops of forty-six mounted men. The regulation number is thirty-five. Of course, it is difficult to explain how this increase may have occurred; but the regulation strength is thirty-four.

Mr. BLAKE. That is a statement of the financial part of the question. I observe that in Military District No. 7, in Quebec, two troops of cavalry numbered ninety-six; and a little below, a cavalry troop is mentioned, numbering eighty-one; but the number of horses is not stated here, and I do not know if it is stated elsewhere. I have not looked, but these are the numbers. The material point is what the strength of this particular troop is to be. The hon. gentleman states thirty-four, as I understand him, officers and men; would the hon. gentleman state what he expects the cost to be.

Mr. CARON. That troop which we mean to establish, and composed as I have stated, will cost about \$26,000.

Mr. BLAKE. And these companies, what are they estimated at?

Mr. CARON. The hon. gentleman must consider that they have only 100 men each, instead of 150.

Mr. BLAKE. And the infantry?

Mr. CARON. There will be 100 in each, or 300 men in all.

Mr. BLAKE. And the cost?

Mr. CARON. Each infantry school will cost \$44,300, including a number of officers and non-commissioned officers that will be trained yearly in these schools. The number of officers will be forty, and non-commissioned officers eighty.

Mr. BLAKE. Are those included in the 300 men?

Mr. CARON. No, these are outside.

Mr. BLAKE. This is considerably below what the infantry is estimated to cost in the British service?

Mr. CARON. Yes.

Mr. BLAKE. Although it includes the expenses of this training? Will the hon. gentleman give the particulars of this expenditure?

Mr. CARON. The captain who will be in command will be paid at the rate of \$1,460 per annum; two lieutenants will, together, receive \$1,460; four sergeants, \$1,314; four corporals, \$1,022; ninety-two men, \$16,201.

Mr. BLAKE. What is the rate of pay?

Mr. CARON. 50 cts. per diem, rations for 100 men, \$4,500; uniform, boots, kitted, greatcoats, &c., \$3,500. Barrack furniture, medicine, transports, fuel, light, and contingencies, \$7,533; making \$37,000 for the permanent establishment. Over and above that we have the forty officers and the eighty non-commissioned officers for each, involving an expenditure of \$7,300, making altogether \$44,300, as I have already stated.

Mr. BLAKE. That will be a total expense of \$240,000.

Mr. CARON. No, \$203,000.

Mr. BLAKE. I make that sum from the items.

Mr. CARON. If the hon. gentleman will trust me until I bring down the Estimates I will give him the full particulars, but he may rest assured that \$203,000 will be the amount asked for.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). I wish to propose an addition to clause 28, which provides that the Major-General must be an officer in Her Majesty's regular army. I would propose, after the word "army," to insert the words, "or in the active Militia force of Canada." This would make the clause so elastic that, in the event of the Minister finding in our active Militia force a suitable officer to take the position, he would have power to make such an appointment. I think the hon. Minister will agree with the view that it is well to hold out to the force in Canada the highest prizes in the service—that, while we are prepared to admit that the officers who have heretofore filled the position of Major-General have discharged their duties ably and well, it is possible in the future, with the extensive machinery the hon. gentleman is providing for the military education of the people, that he may find in the ranks a gentleman suitable for that position. I hope he will accept this suggestion.

Mr. O'BRIEN. I sincerely hope the hon. Minister will not accept the amendment proposed. If the hon. gentleman consults the officers of the force, especially those in command of battalions, he will not find one who does not prefer the Major-General to be an officer of the Imperial army, and should know more than any of us can have any possibility of learning. We do not want an officer at the head of this force to have any political character; there is enough politics in the force now. If the Major-General were one of ourselves, who has never seen any but Canadian service, he would certainly occupy a different position from a man in the regular army. I speak from my own personal experience, and I hope that the clause will be left as it is. I would like to take this opportunity of saying that the effect upon the force of last year's inspection and supervision by the gentleman who now commands it, was most satisfactory, and that the camps of 1882 were much superior to those of any previous year. I make that statement because I think it is due to the officer that it should be made in the most public way, and by some one who knows something about it.

Mr. CARON. The hon. member will remember that the only clauses held over were those relating to the expenditure of public money. This clause was discussed before,