

development of the idea. We had established depots in the east, and when the province of Manitoba was created, a depot was established there. Two new provinces are now being created, and depots will be established there. We have taken over Esquimalt, and so there is a depot in the province of British Columbia.

Mr. SPROULE. What do you mean by a depot?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. That is the name of a small permanent force or a garrison.

Mr. SPROULE. I wanted to know if there was anything more than a force—if there were any supplies or ammunition kept at a depot?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Of course, it is the duty of a permanent force, wherever it may be, to guard any supplies which may be deposited at that particular point.

Mr. SPROULE. What I desired to ascertain was whether it was the policy of the government to have in every province a separate depot where there would be a permanent supply?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. There is now. At every one of these depots, or adjacent to it in the military district, there is a supply of arms, ammunition and clothing.

Mr. ALEX. MARTIN. Does the minister intend to establish a depot in every province of Canada?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Not necessarily. My hon. friend is so near Halifax that I trust that the depot there will answer.

Mr. ALEX. MARTIN. We have a great deal of confidence in the militia of that province.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. With regard to the active militia, it has a strength now of something under 50,000. There has been a considerable increase in its strength during the last ten years.

Mr. FOSTER. Before my hon. friend leaves the permanent force, I would like him to show in what way these depots serve the educational purpose?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The officers of the active militia are sent to the depots to take a course of instruction, which is known as the short course. There are several courses of instruction each year. So far as there is accommodation for the officers, they live in the barracks. If there is not accommodation for them there, they receive an allowance from the Militia Department to indemnify them for their expenses. I may say that the most important

problem which the department has to solve is really how best the officers of the active militia can obtain the necessary education. As a rule, they are business men engaged in the active callings of life, and it is very difficult for them to break away from their business engagements and give a few weeks much less months, which would probably be necessary to enable an officer to become thoroughly qualified.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The establishment of depots means the distribution of the permanent force in different parts of Canada?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Yes.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. And, incidentally, these depots will serve as training schools for officers and non-commissioned officers of the active militia as distinguished from the permanent corps?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Yes.

Mr. TISDALE. The only places where there will be anything more will be at the two forts, Halifax and Esquimalt, though these will be used as training schools also?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Exactly. I fear that in my anxiety to avoid taking more time than is absolutely necessary I have failed to make my explanation as full as hon. members desire, and so may have defeated my own object. Perhaps it would be well for me to read from the memorandum which has been handed to me by the military members of the council.

Mr. TISDALE. That is the report the hon. minister has already distributed among some of the members of the House?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Yes.

At six o'clock, committee took recess.

### After Recess.

Committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. STOCKTON. I would like to ask the minister a question. I did not fully understand his explanation this afternoon. I understand that the fortresses at Halifax and Esquimalt are to be handed over to the Dominion authorities, and that the Minister of Militia is to take possession and control of them for the Dominion of Canada. Does that include merely the fortresses, or does it include all the equipments connected with the fortresses; for instance, the guns and stores and all the other military equipments?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Unfortunately, as my hon. friend will have observed from the discussion, the arrangements between the imperial government and this government are not complete. The Canadian government offered to relieve the imperial government from the responsibility of maintaining those two garrisons. Exactly what that means has not been defined, but