

May 5, 1874

When the Bill was introduced it would receive, he had no doubt, the consideration from both sides of the House that it would deserve, and be made as perfect as possible. He moved that the Speaker do now leave the chair.

**Hon. Mr. TUPPER** asked how the cadets would be selected.

**Hon. Mr. ROSS (Victoria)** said that they would be selected by a Board of Examiners.

**Hon. Mr. TUPPER** said in order that there might be no confusing of our new military school with that at West Point, it would be well to place it at an east point. (*Hear, hear.*) He thought that there was no city which could offer advantages equal to those of Halifax as a place for a school of this character, it being the only garrison town we now possessed, and the cadets would have the opportunity there of obtaining instructions from members of the British army. At that city cadets would have the advantage of witnessing the evolution of all branches of the regular service.

**Mr. DOMVILLE** asked how cadets would be admitted into the College, by nomination of persons having patronage at their disposal, or by competitive examination.

**Hon. Mr. ROSS (Victoria)** said that there would be a Board of Examiners, and those who wished to get into the College would have to pass an examination with regard to their educational standing. They would also have to pass a medical examination.

**Mr. DOMVILLE** did not know how the Minister of Militia (Hon. Mr. Ross) proposed to turn out clergymen and doctors, as well as officers of infantry, artillery and engineers from this single school, when there was a school for every branch of the service in England, and cadets were not admitted into them after the age of eighteen years.

**Mr. MASSON** thought that the location of the College might very well be left to the Government. He congratulated the Government on having determined to provide for the defence of the country as they proposed and thus adopted the policy of the predecessors.

We were now entering upon a new era in public affairs. It seemed that we were now going to have a regular permanent military organization. He said that this idea had been brought up several years ago, but the present Finance Minister (Hon. Mr. Cartwright) and the hon. member for Châteauguay (Hon. Mr. Holton) had taken strong ground against it. Now he was glad to see that they were coming to the view he had years ago entertained. He congratulated the Government upon their reaction in this matter. He thought they had only done their duty.

**Mr. BOWELL** asked if when this College was established the different military schools now open would be abolished. With reference to the place at which this College would be situated, he hoped that the leader of the Government would be consistent, and not locate it without the consent of the House.

In reply to Mr. Bowell,

**Hon. Mr. ROSS (Victoria)** said it would be some time before the college could be properly established, and the Government could not yet say what they would do with the present schools.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** thanked the member for Terrebonne (Mr. Masson) for his cordial congratulations of the Government on the adoption of this scheme, but he (Hon. Mr. Mackenzie) had been under the impression that he was the originator of this scheme himself.

With reference to the remarks of the hon. member for King's (Mr. Domville), he reminded that hon. gentleman that officers were educated in West Point College in artillery, in infantry, in cavalry, and in engineering, and these gentlemen had not only proved themselves during the war to be good soldiers, but, during the survey for the American Pacific Railway, excellent engineers. He thought some of the gentlemen educated in our military college might be employed in connection with the great public works we were about to enter upon, and if unfortunately it ever became necessary to send a large force into the field, they would be available as officers for it.

The only objection to this proposition was the want of a regular army. He did not favour the establishment of a regular army at present, but advocated the training of men to take commands when occasion required.

He admitted that this was to an extent an experiment, but it was one they felt bound to entertain. We had to provide the nucleus of a staff of officers whose training would give confidence to the men under their command. If the experiment were not successful it could be done away with or modified after a few years.

In reply to the reminder of the hon. member from Hastings North (Mr. Bowell), he said he was ready to admit that when a Government asked for a sum of money for public buildings they should give the fullest information as to where it was to be expended, but in this case the money had already been voted.

With reference to the location of the school, he said that the Government were under the impression that they could establish the college without any other expenditure than that for Commandant, professors, and allowances to cadets.

**Mr. WALKER** advocated the claims of London to the location of the college in that city. The opinion had been freely expressed to him by friends, who, like him, were greatly interested in the Militia of Canada, that the Government were taking the right direction.

He hoped that the Government, employing young men studying at this school, would lead to all civil service employees having to pass a competitive examination. He spoke of the necessity of increasing the pay to the men composing the Militia, and of the uselessness of drill at headquarters. It should always be done in brigade camps. He thought an expenditure for the purpose of a Military College was justifiable in every respect.

He would suggest to Government that if instead of calling out for training each year the full force of each company they would require only a portion of men to come out, they would be able