

ricton. While I do not wish to speak positively without consulting General Lake, I think my hon. friend may rest quite easy that until a cavalry school is established there a depot of infantry will be continued. The troops were removed from Fredericton to Halifax because there was an urgency for it, and Fredericton was the nearest depot to Halifax. But I do not wish to speak any more strongly than that. Before the session ends I will be glad to give my hon. friend, in the House or out of it, some assurance upon the point as to what we intend to do. There is a distinction between Fredericton and St. Johns, Que. St. Johns is the centre of a very large cavalry district. There has been great activity within the last two or three years in the enrolment of cavalry regiments, in fact it has always been an important cavalry centre, much more so than Fredericton. But I think that the idea was to make Fredericton a cavalry depot because there were special strategical reasons why the cavalry should be there, and it was also intended to encourage the formation of cavalry in the active militia.

Mr. O. E. TALBOT. Referring to article 27 in the memorandum, would the minister tell me what is the difference between militia artillery and horse artillery.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. He means by that the active militia, I suppose. It is desirable to introduce into the permanent corps horse artillery to be used with the cavalry in the Northwest Territories.

I was about to remark that the expenditure upon the militia last year ending June 30, amounted in round numbers to \$4,000,000. The estimate for the present year amounts to \$1,000,000 more. The memorandum which I laid on the table prepared by the accountant estimates that \$150,000 more will be required during the financial year, to train the whole of the militia.

Mr. TISDALE. Does that estimate cover the 5,000?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. A little less than 3,000. That will have to be increased. Now the increases are first in the pay at headquarters and the district staff. There is an increase of \$43,000, partly due to the increased pay, and chiefly due to the large increase in the number of officers. For the permanent corps there is an increase from \$475,000 to \$1,100,000 an increase of \$625,000, chiefly due to taking over Esquimalt and Halifax. As regards Esquimalt, we have been in the habit of paying one-half the cost of maintaining that garrison which was \$110,000. This year we are paying \$220,000, or whatever the amount may be. The balance is chiefly for the garrison at Halifax.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. What will be the total increase in the permanent force?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The total increase this year will be something less

Sir F. W. BORDEN.

than 3,000. But to carry out the plans of the Militia Council, we require an increase of a little under 4,000. We are taking power in the Act to increase to 5,000, because we thought that, as parliament absolutely controls the vote, it was desirable to take sufficient authority to increase the number up to the requirements of the next long term of years. That is why the number was fixed at 5,000. But there is no immediate intention of going beyond 4,000.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. What is the present number?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The number at the present moment is about 1,900, and that includes some 300 sent to Halifax. So the nominal number now would be between 1,400 and 1,500.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. And from 1,900 you are increasing to 4,000?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. To 3,000 during the present year.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Why is it that the increase from 1,900 to 3,000 more than doubles the cost?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I said 1,900, but this estimate really includes the expense of a portion of this 1,900. The first estimate brought down, which was \$475,000, was to pay for about 1,000 men.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Then what is the meaning of making the number 1,900?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. There are now at Halifax about 300 or more of our men.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. These are newly recruited?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Yes.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. So that the real increase is from 1,000 men?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Exactly.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. If it is not inconvenient for the minister to explain matters as we go along, I will ask now for an explanation as to the Halifax garrison. It seems that some 300 of our men have been sent there. Have an equal number of the imperial troops been withdrawn, or what is the exact situation?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I am not able to explain that exactly. But the papers laid on the table include a despatch from the imperial government suggesting that we should begin to recruit immediately, as they do not intend to continue maintaining their regiment at Halifax. That is, they will not keep it up to strength, but as the men's time expires they will allow them to go. That was two or three months ago. We acted on that request. I do not know how many of their men have gone, but I