

lery which will be a school of instruction also, and which will be more useful in that Province than any other arm of the service. As hon. members are aware, British Columbia is at this time without a permanent Adjutant-General. Accordingly, we have sent, from one of our training schools of artillery, Major Holmes, who—and I can say this without being charged with flattery—is one of the best officers we have trained in our military schools, and he is to act for the present as Deputy Adjutant-General. When the regular battery is organized and stationed at Victoria or some other place, the Commandant of that school of artillery will become Deputy Adjutant-General, who will, practically, take charge of the whole district. We consider the question from a military stand-point, and after consulting professional officers who know the circumstances and requirements of the Province, we decided to turn the whole force into an artillery force, and the intention is to make it "C" Battery, as we have "A" and "B" Batteries at present. In regard to the infantry schools, one will be stationed in the Maritime Provinces, another in the Province of Quebec, probably at Montreal, the third in Toronto or some place in Ontario, but from the fact of our having military property and barracks in Toronto which can be fitted up for the accommodation of the force without any large expenditure, and because it is a central point, the school of infantry will be located there. With respect to the troop of cavalry I may say that the intention is to add to the permanent "A" and "B" Batteries a troop of cavalry which will be divided between those batteries; that is to say, we will add a number of horses to the batteries in Quebec and Kingston. We consider, in order to meet the requirements of the the service, that such is indispensable. If it is really our intention to keep up a permanent force we must have staff officers and cavalry officers, of course, drilled in that branch of the service, it will involve a very small addition to the expenditure, and we could not carry out the purpose which we have in view without having those two batteries already organized and by having a troop of cavalry added, one-half to "A" Battery and the other half to "B" Battery. The object contemplated is to afford all necessary training required for that branch of the service. As regards "B" Battery, or any other battery stationed at Kingston, the horses will be utilized for the purpose of giving drill instruction in that branch of the service to the cadets of the Royal Military College. It has been stated by the Commander of the Royal Military College, and by the officers of "B" Battery, that the battery horses were worked much more than they should be, in order that drill instruction might be given to the college cadets. Hence it is, we believe, and have thought, that by adding a limited expenditure of money to the expenditure applied by Parliament for Militia purposes, we could get this additional troop, or half a troop, at Quebec and at Kingston, and give all the instruction we require, and that this would help considerably towards the instruction which, under the curriculum followed in the Royal Military College, is expected to be given to the cadets.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). The hon. gentleman has not stated what he expects all this to cost. "A" and "B" Batteries cost between them about \$120,000, or say \$60,000 each, on an average; and to establish a battery in British Columbia will cost, I will assume, about as much as one of these, or \$60,000.

Mr. BLAKE. It will be more expensive in British Columbia.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). It is more expensive to do anything West than in these other Provinces. I think I am safe in assuming the cost to be \$60,000.

Mr. BLAKE. It will be more.

Mr. CARON.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). Say \$80,000; and the companies of infantry, which the hon. gentleman proposes to establish, will cost as much as a battery, or \$50,000 apiece.

Mr. CARON. They will not cost as much as a battery.

Mr. ROSS. Say \$10,000 each, and we are near \$200,000 now for the whole. Then there is this double-barrelled troop of cavalry which it is proposed to establish—one-half at Kingston and one-half at Quebec—and this certainly will cost a considerable sum of money. The hon. gentleman must add thus, at least, a fixed charge in the neighborhood of \$200,000 for this little addition to the service, which I think is not absolutely necessary by any means. I think that the hon. gentleman should consider before he asks the Committee to adopt this part of the Bill. It is really a very serious thing to add \$200,000 to the fixed charges, when there is for it no absolute necessity. We are in no danger of war. The hon. gentleman does not fear an invasion from any quarter. We seem to be at peace with all men, and we are already spending large sums of money in giving instruction to the men. I do not propose at this stage to offer any further objection to the clause, but I wish the hon. gentleman to think the matter over seriously before he asks the House to consent to a proposition which will involve such a large expenditure.

Mr. CARON. I can see that the hon. gentleman has been giving his attention to these figures.

Mr. ROSS. As always.

Mr. CARON. He is so near my calculations that I would almost imagine that we had consulted together about this expenditure. This will really not cost more than about \$200,000; and I think that the hon. gentleman must be congratulated upon the fact that he has, without any previous information, got so close to the amount which will be required to give to the force that efficiency which I consider to be really indispensable.

Mr. BLAKE. I am glad that the hon. gentleman is so near the hon. Minister's calculation, but I would like to get a little more information about them. I dare say my hon. friend is right as to the battery in British Columbia. I suppose that it will be placed at Victoria. I presume that the hon. Minister agrees that this will cost more money than it would here. No?

Mr. CARON. The hon. gentleman is perfectly right as far as the cost of living is concerned. We all know that is more expensive. The amount of money I am asking Parliament to vote for that battery is exactly the same which we pay for the batteries in Quebec and Kingston.

Mr. BLAKE. Then when we reach that point we ascertain, that if it does cost more to maintain a battery at Victoria, B.C., the hon. gentleman's estimate of \$200,000 will likely be inadequate, unless he overruns on some other portions of this large military force. I can hardly conceive from the accounts which we have always received as to expenditure in British Columbia, it can be otherwise than correct to say, as I stated a moment ago, that it will cost more for a battery there. The hon. Minister agrees that the expense of living is more. I fancy also that wages are higher; and unless the hon. gentleman, perhaps, gives extra pay he will have to submit to occasional departures—I will not call them desertions—from his battery. Then, when we get to the troop of cavalry the hon. gentleman says that it is to be divided, and proposes to add fifteen horses to each of the batteries, A and B.

Mr. CARON. A troop consists of thirty-four.

Mr. BLAKE. This will not be a full troop, then.

Mr. CARON. Yes; it is a full troop for cavalry.

Mr. BLAKE. An ordinary troop, I understand, is fifty.

Mr. CARON. Not in Canada.