

have been made in different provisions of the law. First, it is proposed to increase the permanent force of the militia to 2,000. The present law provides for 1,000. In the near future the population of this country will be double the population of the country at the time the present provision was made. The Northwest and British Columbia have since that time become parts of the Dominion. Important settlements are taking place in the Northwest, and gradually as the country becomes settled the Northwest Mounted Police will proceed to other spheres of usefulness and the militia of the country will have to take the responsibility of maintaining order there, and depots will be required. In fact, at the last session of parliament, I explained that we were taking a sum of money to pay for an addition of 500 men to the permanent force. So that I think this increase of 1,000 will be considered to be entirely within the present demands of the country.

Another change which I propose refers to the pay of the permanent force. At present it stands at forty cents a day, with certain good-conduct pay. It is proposed to adopt the rate of pay of the Northwest Mounted Police as that of the permanent force of this country. I need not stop here to argue the point, because this can be better done on the second reading; but I may say that the permanent force is the teaching force of this country, the one upon which we must largely depend for the training of the active militia, and therefore it is exceedingly desirable that it should be composed of first-class men. The pay is to begin at fifty cents a day, and increase at the rate of five cents each year until it reaches seventy-five cents as the maximum.

The next change is in the rate of pay of the active militia. That matter has been discussed here on many occasions. I am happy to be able to say that this Bill provides that while the pay shall begin as it does now at fifty cents a day, there shall be a provision by regulation, which shall be laid on the table of the House, allowing for an increase year by year until at the end of three years \$1 a day may be paid to men who have shown by their good conduct and their proficiency in rifle shooting that they have earned it.

Another change which has been made is in the provision for giving aid to the civil power in time of riot. It is proposed to amend the law as it now stands by providing that the active militia shall only be used in the suppression of riots or in aid of the civil power when the permanent force is not available, or not in sufficient number to be utilized.

One other alteration proposes to extend the period for annual drill from sixteen days to thirty days. It is not compulsory, but it will be possible, if occasion requires, to make that extension of time. The present

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law provides for sixteen days, but it has been the custom to make the period twelve days. It is not probable that that will be exceeded, but it was thought desirable that power should be given to the government if at any time it might be necessary for the drill to be extended in certain cases to thirty days.

I now come to the additions to the law proposed in this Bill. I shall at first call attention to the provisions in reference to cadets. We have had many discussions in this House on this matter, and it was promised that when the new Bill was proposed, provision would be made for the enrolment of cadets. I cannot do better than read the clauses:—

73. The minister may (a) authorize boys over 12 years of age who are attending school to be formed into school cadet corps; (b) authorize boys over 14 years of age and under 18 years of age to be formed into senior cadet corps; (c) authorize senior cadet corps or any portion thereof to be attached to any portion of the active militia for the purpose of drill and training.

74. All cadet corps shall be subject to the authority and under the orders of the district officer commanding.

75. Cadet corps shall be drilled and trained as prescribed, and may be furnished with arms, ammunition and equipment under the conditions prescribed.

Mr. INGRAM. Does the minister mean the cadet corps connected with high schools?

Sir FREDERICK W. BORDEN. Yes, and with any school.

Mr. CLARKE. Is provision made for instruction in rifle shooting?

Sir FREDERICK W. BORDEN. Yes, under regulations, of course. There is a provision in the Bill for the appointment of officers to rank as brigadier-generals temporarily. This will be found necessary under the proposed increase of the numerical militia at times of camp. There is a further provision that the rank of senior major-general may be conferred upon colonials on retirement, who have held the highest executive appointments on the headquarters staff, for distinguished service in the country. These are the important provisions of the Bill. When the second reading is reached, I shall have an opportunity of going more into detail.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES (North Victoria). It is not my intention to discuss the Bill on its first reading, but I must compliment the hon. minister on a number of the changes he has made, especially the change in relation to the cadet corps. That is a matter which has excited interest all over the country for a number of years, and I am pleased to see the hon. minister place the very desirable provision regarding these corps, which he has done in the proposed new law. The provision enabling the general officer commanding in Canada to be chosen from the