

in two companies, 125 men each, armed with 303 rifles or carbines, with their own horses, but rifles or carbines can be supplied if necessary by Imperial government. Not more than one captain and three subalterns each company. Officer not higher than major may command whole force. Troops to be disembarked at port of landing South Africa, fully equipped at cost of colonial government. From date of disembarkation force is to be treated as integral portion of Imperial forces. After that date Imperial government will provide pay at Imperial rates, supplies and ammunition, and defray expenses of transport back to colony, and pay wound pensions and compassionate allowances at Imperial rates.

Now, Sir, that is not all. As soon as the rules of the House permit I will lay on the Table another paper bearing directly upon this subject. On the 2nd of October the War Office issued to the Colonial Office the following despatch :—

War Office, London, S.W.,
October 2, 1899.

Sir,—In view of the many offers of troops for co-operation with Her Majesty's forces in South Africa which have been made, either officially by colonial governments on behalf of their colonies, or unofficially by officers and gentlemen on behalf of bodies of men whom they know to be willing to serve, the Secretary of State for War will be obliged if the Secretary of State for the Colonies will express to both the government and the individuals concerned his gratification at the fact that such offers have been made. The Secretary of State for War and the Commander-in-Chief highly appreciate this signal exhibition of the patriotic spirit by which Her Majesty's colonial subjects are animated.

Lord Lansdowne would also submit for transmission to the proper quarters such information as may assist in the organization of the troops thus offered into units suitable to the military requirements of the situation. Such requirements and the conditions necessary to fulfil them can best be indicated in outline, leaving details for further consideration and arrangement.

After giving details of organization and arms, the despatch goes on to state :—

Conditions of pay, pension, transport, &c.:

Whilst noting the generous offer by the government of New Zealand to furnish pay in addition to transport Lord Lansdowne is of opinion that the same conditions should be applied in the case of each colony, viz.:

Every colonial force should be landed at the port of debarkation in South Africa fully equipped at the cost of the colonial government or other body furnishing the force.

The Imperial government to provide from that date pay at Imperial rates, supplies and ammunition and to defray the cost of transport back to the colony when the services of the force are no longer required. Wound pensions and compassionate allowances to be paid by the Imperial government at Imperial rates.

You see, Mr. Speaker, that these rules were laid down by the War Office after mature consideration, and they were not at all the result of accident. My hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) called my attention, this afternoon to the despatch of

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

the Colonial Office to Earl Ranfurley in which the offer is apparently accepted without any qualification. It reads as follows :—

Downing Street, November 10, 1899.

My Lord,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of September 29 last, transmitting a resolution passed by the House of Representatives respecting the offer of a contingent of New Zealand Mounted Rifles for service in South Africa, and reporting the arrangements made for the composition and equipment of the force.

The patriotic enthusiasm with which the government and people of New Zealand have taken a share in the defence of Imperial interests in South Africa has been received with warm and sincere gratification by the government and people of this country; and the promptitude of the arrangements made for the despatch of the contingent has been cordially recognized by the military authorities.

I have, &c.,
J. CHAMBERLAIN.

When I read this despatch I thought that after all perhaps there had been a subsequent arrangement, and with a view of ascertaining that I wired to our High Commissioner to ascertain the facts. My hon. friend has read the telegram and the answer to it, but it may bear repetition. This is what I cabled to Lord Strathcona :

Ottawa, January 26, 1900.

In view of discussions upon subject here, I desire to know definitely what is arrangement between British government and different Australasian colonies respecting pay of men serving on colonial contingents after landing in South Africa. Are colonies paying in any cases? Give details.

Here is the answer of Lord Strathcona :

London, January 30, 1900.

Have communicated with Colonial Office regarding your cable 26th instant. Arrangement with Australian colonies precisely same as with Canada. In no case are colonies paying their contingents after landing South Africa. New Zealand government offered provide pay for their contingents, but Her Majesty's government were of opinion that arrangement by which pay at Imperial rates should be provided from Imperial exchequer from date of disembarkation South Africa should be applied all colonial forces. See Nos. 13 and 16, Parliamentary Papers, November 16, 1899. Copies sent Secretary of State, 15th ultimo.

Therefore you have the principle laid down and determined by the Imperial authorities, and absolutely put outside the pale of discussion. Why therefore should we discuss the question any more? Why should my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) attempt to create political capital—I can attribute to him no other motive than that—why should he attempt to make political capital out of this? Why does he insist so much that we should pay, if not for the advantage of being able to say to the country, 'Oh, the government have no heart in this business; they do not