

I think the House will agree with me in believing that it is not probable the Parliament of Canada will be required to provide the means for another general election. I trust the Union of the Provinces will have taken place in such time, that the next election will be a general election for the Federal Parliament of all the Provinces—(hear, hear)—and consequently the Government does not think it necessary for the Parliament of Canada to make any provision for the expenses of that election.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON—Who will pay for it?

Atty. Gen. CARTIER—The people.

Hon. Mr. GALT.—Passing over several of the other items, I come to that of Militia. I regret to be obliged to state to the Committee that the Government do not feel themselves to be in a position to be responsible for the safety of the country, unless they obtain from the House the grant of a very large sum for the Militia expenditure. Instead of asking, as last year, for a grant of \$500,000, the Government feel it their duty to state that they believe it to be necessary—though they may not require to expend the whole—that they should be provided with a credit under this head of no less than \$1,500,000. (Hear, hear.) The Government are perfectly conscious of the responsibility they incurred during the year now closing, in violating the provisions of the law in regard to the public expenditure, and they do not desire to be again put in that position. They prefer very much to state to the House what are their apprehensions in regard to the safety of the country, and what, therefore, are the powers with which they consider they should be armed by Parliament. And, though the explanation of this item will more properly come from the Minister of Militia, when the Militia estimates are before the House, still it may not perhaps be considered amiss that I should say two or three words now in explanation of the sum required for this purpose, which is very much larger than the Parliament of Canada has ever before been called upon to vote. In the first place, I think it will be admitted to be desirable that the volunteer force, to which the country owes so much during the last few weeks, should receive a still larger development—that we should give the youth of this country a fuller opportunity of lending their physical support to the Government, by increasing the number of the force. And, therefore, my hon. friend will ask the House, when the detailed estimates are brought down, for means to arm and equip a force of 35,000 volunteers instead of 25,000. (Hear, hear.) Connected with this subject also is plainly the necessity of providing, within the reach of the people of the country, depots of arms at convenient points. A vote will be asked from the House for that purpose also. It will further be necessary to continue the existing drill of the volunteers, and to maintain in still greater efficiency the military schools, which are now furnishing hundreds, I might almost say, thousands of young men to be the future officers of our militia. These objects must be provided for now, as it is too late to begin to provide for them when the country is threatened with inva-