

the Empire that the fort at Annapolis has been taken over by the Parks Branch, and also a fort at St. John.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Who made the expenditure my hon. friend has referred to?

Mr. COPP: Probably my hon. friend from Cumberland could say. I understand that it is under the control of the Militia Department. I think it is well that these old battlegrounds which are falling into decay should be taken care of by the Government and preserved as a memorial for future generations. I would ask the minister if something cannot be done to preserve these old forts in New Brunswick and elsewhere.

Mr. ROCHE: I might explain that the Parks Branch is in the Interior Department. An arrangement was entered into comparatively recently under which these particular properties are being converted into Dominion national parks. It is our intention to conserve them for that purpose.

Mr. COPP: Is Fort Beausejour under consideration for this purpose?

Mr. ROCHE: The Annapolis one was taken over, but I cannot say as to the other.

Mr. COPP: I understand that Fort Annapolis was transferred from the Militia Department to the Interior Department?

Mr. ROCHE: Yes.

Gratuity to the widow of the late F. G. Anson, employed at the Royal Military College, \$616.46.

Mr. KYTE: Some weeks ago a return was brought down, on the motion of the hon. member for Richmond and Wolfe (Mr. Tobin), giving the number and salaries, amounting to some \$400,000 a year, of those employed on the headquarters staff in Military District No. 6, Halifax. Has that number been reduced or increased since that return was brought down?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Some changes have been made, although not very important ones. Changes are always taking place in regard to such an important district—No. 6 Military District includes New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. I had the matter investigated recently by one of our best officers. I have not had a full report from him of his views in reference to the matter, but in a conversation with him he told me that, while there were some officers whose services could be dispensed with, there were places where more officers are needed. I am not

[Mr. Copp.]

in a position to tell this House about all the military operations that are going on, particularly on the coast of Nova Scotia. I will go so far as to say that, confidentially, I shall be glad to discuss the matter with, and to explain the exact situation to, any member of the House. The Maritime Provinces comprise the district which is nearest to the seat of the war. We are carrying on all kinds of defences, not only in Halifax, but in other places around the coast, and doing many things which we did not have to do even a year or two ago. While the list to which my hon. friend refers is a long one, yet I want to assure him that the officer of whom I spoke tells me that these officers are necessary.

Mr. KYTE: Then there has been no material reduction in the expenditure of the headquarters staff in that district?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: There has been no material reduction. The matter is under consideration. Whether it may be reduced or not I do not know. If it can be reduced it will be, but I doubt very much whether it will be advisable to reduce it.

Mr. CARVELL: I realize that the minister is not responsible for the condition of affairs, and I would not expect him to say too much in condemnation. But surely the business ability of the minister must teach him that there is a condition with regard to the general staff that ought not to exist. I went over that return and I found 176 officers.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Does that include nurses?

Mr. CARVELL: No. The nurses were outside of that; there were 57 nurses. I have nothing to say about that; wounded and sick men have to be looked after; I assume that the nurses are properly employed, and therefore I make no comment about that. One thing I did admire was the ingenuity of the officers down there in creating the offices which you will observe by reading the list. There were all sorts of initials before and after the names, initials that I do not know the meaning of. I have been out of the militia for about ten years, but I used to know something about militia matters and I know what all the ordinary officers were, but the initials before and after these names were like Greek to me. One thing that impressed me was the enormous number of medical men at Halifax on the list. I do not believe there is a Conservative doctor in Halifax