

to his health, there is a way of getting it, the surgeon can prescribe it. If he really needs anything of that kind it can be got in that way. If he is perfectly well he can get along very well with tea or coffee or ginger ale. I am inclined to think that our lady friends, who take a great interest in the militia, would view the abolition of this regulation as a retrograde step, and I do not propose at this moment to take the risk of making them the enemies of the militia organization. I think, therefore, the regulation will have to continue.

Mr. INGRAM. Lest I should be thought to have misrepresented the position of the Major General, I think it would be well to place on 'Hansard' his recommendation on this subject, and if hon. gentlemen have no objection, I will read it for that purpose. He says this:

I would not on any account permit the sale of spirits in the canteens during annual drill, but I must here most strongly protest against a system that forces a soldier, if he needs a glass of beer, to resort to the saloons and drinking shops of the nearest town where there is no control over either the quality, nature, or quantity of the liquor supplied to him. The effect of this regulation is to largely increase the amount of drunkenness in camp, and it is easy to show why this is so. In a military canteen all liquor has to be consumed on the premises and, if proper supervision is exercised, no man shall be served with more than is good for him. But what happens under the existing system of prohibition? The man who would have been contented with his glass of ale or lager beer had he been able to procure it in camp, has to walk some distance to get his drink, probably takes whiskey instead of malt liquor, and very often returns to camp with a bottle of bad whiskey under his coat which he takes to his tent and proceeds to make his comrades intoxicated.

I contend that it is a serious evil to drive our men into the temptation of the city liquor bars, rather than let them buy a glass of wholesome beer in their own camp, and I trust that this incentive to intemperance may be removed from the militia regulations.

There is no doubt that the Major General has had a great deal of experience of soldiers, both in the old country and in Canada, and if his observation of their habits and customs has led him to make this recommendation, and it will be the means of preventing the too free use of spirits, and is really a step in the direction of temperance, I think his recommendation should be carried out. If it be in the interest of temperance, as he says it is—and I am sure he ought to be the better judge than some of those who object—in my judgment we should adopt the recommendation of the Major General.

Mr. SPROULE. Have the various corps the right to store their arms at their own headquarters?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The General commanding recommends that we should go back to the

Hon. Mr. BORDEN (King's).

old system of issuing the rifles to the captains of companies at company headquarters, and that is being done now.

Mr. CLARKE. Have we disposed of canteen business?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I intend to leave the regulation as it is.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I do not quite understand the explanation of the minister with regard to the increase of \$440,000 to \$520,000. Are \$150,000 more to be voted in the supplementaries?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The fact is that the annual drill of the whole militia costs \$425,000, and the custom has been to vote \$275,000 for the first part of the year and \$150,000 for the balance. But there is not much to be said in defence of that system. I ask the one sum, and it is not my intention to ask any supplementary estimates for the years 1902-3. But there will be a supplementary asked for this year 1901-2, as a portion of the militia go into camp in June, and it will require \$135,000 to \$150,000 to drill them. This vote will be sufficient for the year from 1st July, 1902 to the 30th June, 1903.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). There is really no increase?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. No, it is a reduction.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Comparing it with the estimate of 1900, which was \$275,000, and adding the \$150,000, would make \$425,000.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Yes.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). And this includes something further?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Clothing and stores.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I think this is a very much better way than to have two votes. I objected to that system of supplementary votes last year. I could see no reason why all the departments should not do as the hon. gentleman has done in this case, namely, bring down the whole estimate in the first place, so that the House may judge what amount the minister thinks will be requisite for the expenditure of the year. I made a formal protest against the other system last year, and suggested to the Minister of Finance that this change should be adopted and I am glad it has been in this case. It is a more business like way of dealing with the matter.

Salaries and wages, \$90,000.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The increase here of \$10,000 is due to the fact that we have had to employ more men and give them higher wages.