

Mr. FOSTER. I am a little hazy as to how the minister will evolve that 100,000 of an active militia out of the present 47,000.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. As I have stated, the advice which I have received is that we should have more than 47,000—perhaps 55,000. The material would be supplied from rifle associations and from men who had passed through their three years' service in the militia and are on the reserve. Of course, it would be necessary to establish a reserve. That has not yet been done, but it will be done; it can very easily be done. In the meantime, we have material in the rifle associations from which we can draw, because the members of all these associations sign a promise when they join them to enlist if required to do so by the government. So that I do not think there would be any difficulty in obtaining the extra 40,000 or 45,000 men, fairly well qualified, good shots, and with some military training, to expand the force to at least double its size.

Mr. CROCKET. I would like to call the minister's attention to a statement made in paragraph 22 of the memorandum which he has brought down in reference to the establishment of a cavalry corps at Fredericton. That paragraph says :

To begin with, the instruction of the mobile mounted forces has to be considered. No portion of the garrison force, already alluded to, can undertake to instruct mounted troops. There already exist two squadrons of mounted men, viz: (1) one squadron of Royal Canadian Dragoons; (2) one squadron of Royal Mounted Rifles, quartered at Toronto and Winnipeg respectively. A large increase has recently taken place in the mounted troops of the active militia along the portion of our frontier south of Montreal. The existing squadron at Toronto is too far removed from this portion of the country to offer a satisfactory centre of instruction. It is therefore, proposed to create an additional squadron of Royal Canadian Dragoons for instructional purposes, and to locate it at or about St. Johns, P.Q., when the latter place is vacated by the infantry school of instruction, for which provision will shortly be made at Montreal. Another portion of the country where the inhabitants make good horsemen, and where there is a long frontier thinly settled to be watched, and hardly sufficient troops available for the purpose, is New Brunswick. It is proposed eventually to replace the infantry school of instruction, removed from Fredericton to Halifax, by a third squadron of Royal Canadian Dragoons, to be located at Fredericton. This addition to the cavalry is not, however, proposed to take place in the immediate future.

I may say that I do not like the look of the word 'eventually,' nor the expression 'not proposed to take place in the immediate future.' When the minister made his statement in reference to the proposed re-

organization of the permanent depots on the 6th June, he coupled without any distinction St. John's, Quebec and Fredericton as places at which it was proposed to establish cavalry corps in substitution of infantry corps. On that occasion he said :

I will read the statement I have here because there is no object in keeping it back. This statement comprises the whole of the depots; those proposed as well as those now in existence.

Then follows a statement of the points at which the different corps are established, and at which it is proposed to establish others. The last item is:

Royal Canadian Dragoons; one squadron each at Toronto, Ont., St. Johns, Que., and Fredericton, N.B., the Royal Canadian Dragoons would replace the infantry regiments which are at present in these depots.

Mr. FOWLER. You will continue the depot at Fredericton?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Yes, but for cavalry instead of infantry.

Later on the minister stated :

I am told that from a strategic point of view Fredericton is an important point at which to have the cavalry station.

I may say that the people of Fredericton took that statement of the minister as a definite announcement that they were to have a cavalry depot at Fredericton in the near future. I fear that when they read the indefinite statement that has been made to-day by the minister in this memorandum, they will be somewhat disappointed. The present statement, unlike the statement which was made on the 6th of June, is very indefinite with respect to Fredericton, from which the infantry corps has been removed to Halifax, but it is very definite with respect to St. Johns, Que., where it is proposed to establish a cavalry corps and from which point the infantry has not at present been removed. The infantry depot at Fredericton, I think, was established in 1884, and Fredericton has ever since been recognized as the military centre of the province, and the people there, will, I fear be somewhat apprehensive in view of the very indefinite statement which is contained in the memorandum to which I have referred. I would therefore ask the minister what is meant by 'eventually' and 'in the near future,' and whether it is proposed, in the event of the cavalry corps not being established in the near future, to replace the men who have been removed to Halifax by others in the infantry corps at Fredericton?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I remember perfectly the statement which I made, and I made it in good faith. I do not know that there has been any departure from that intention. I noticed to-day for the first time that particular portion of the memorandum to which my hon. friend has called my attention with reference to the cavalry at Frede-