

in with regard to the Militia organization, he might very kindly and gracefully have conceded what I ask, the formation of a regiment, so that the men from there would not be obliged to drill in Ottawa as at present. This county occupies an exceptional position in not having a local organization, such as you can find almost everywhere in smaller constituencies in other parts of the Dominion. The hon. gentleman has been pleased to allude to me in kindly, pleasant, and humorous terms, and I reply that if I am King of the Gatineau I can assure the hon. gentleman he occupies a very high place in my estimation. At the last meeting of Parliament I suggested the name of the hon. gentleman, as an organizer of victory, should be changed to that of Carnot that he might rank with the Moltkes and the other great military men of the day. I have borne cheerful testimony to the benefits he has conferred on our military organizations, for which I have the greatest respect. I never see one of our military men without instinctively taking off my hat. Those men have sacrificed everything, notably the rank and file, for the benefit of their country during the time of trouble, the time of the Fenian raids, and we were then very proud of them. But when the time comes when we do not require their services we are apt to laugh at and stigmatize them as being rather disposed to fuss and feathers. I would not insinuate that the hon. Minister of Militia went too far in this respect. I believe the æsthetic idea is a very important one. We had the apostle of æstheticism, Oscar Wilde, here last year, and the idea of the beautiful, among others, to develop humanity is most important, and in certain matters connected with military affairs there must be more or less of that influence. The red coat is very pleasant to look at and has figured in every battle-field. An hon. gentleman says that it is going to be done away with. Although we may be happy with our grievances—my hon. friend near me says they are very happy (the Opposition), for they have lots of grievances—and although mine are to be lessened by one-half, I hope the hon. Minister of Militia will see that it would be well to keep up the rank and file, notably among the men of the backwoods. I do not wish to say a word in disparagement of the force in the cities, for I have seen the gallant Irishmen, Frenchmen, and Englishmen of Montreal, at the time of the Fenian raid, march out—march out, amidst the waving of handkerchiefs of the ladies and the cheers of the population, to defend our country! With regard to my own county, it has always been its fate, that the hon. Ministers of Militia were not prepared—perhaps because they thought the fighting element might not be susceptible of being kept within discipline—to give them a chance of going to the front. I hope the hon. Minister of Militia, as a simple measure of justice, will see his way clear to grant us the organization of a regiment for the County of Ottawa.

Resolution reported.

Mr. CARON moved that the House again resolve itself into Committee on Bill (No. 31) to consolidate and amend the laws affecting the Militia of Canada.

Motion agreed to, and the House resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. CARON. I wish to draw the attention of the Committee to clause 17, sub-section 3—"Whenever the exigencies of the service required, Her Majesty may raise and maintain a torpedo corps." I wish to substitute the words, "a corps of submarine miners," instead of "torpedo corps," as the former designation is the one used in England.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). What would the hon. Minister of Militia consider such an exigency as would justify the organization of torpedo corps?

Mr. CARON. The hon. gentleman knows so well, when and why torpedo corps are required, that I could hardly give him any explanation that would enlighten him.

Mr. ROSS. Nothing short of a threatened invasion I suppose.

Mr. CARON. Of course. The hon. gentleman will understand the peculiar geographical circumstances of the country, our large extent of sea-board, and numerous harbors which we have to protect, and the most inexpensive mode of protecting the sea-board is by torpedo corps organized for that purpose.

On section 18,

Mr. CARON. The form of oath does not cover the whole ground. I wish to introduce the words "The commanding officer of the troop, battery, company or battalion." It is merely to apply the same thing to the whole force.

On section 21,

Mr. CARON. This clause was not passed, owing to objections by some hon. gentlemen. The Military Schools which we are creating, are for the purpose of introducing that branch of the service, and we consider that it is indispensable so far as that branch of the service is concerned. When the discussion first took place, these clauses were not passed because hon. gentlemen stated that it was a matter that required to be brought down by resolution. After looking into the matter, I believe that hon. gentlemen will agree with me that it is not a question involving the expenditure of public money. What I am now asking, is authority to create the schools. When the Estimates are brought down, the items of expenditure for the establishment of these schools will be inserted, but if the House does not agree to those items in the Estimates, of course the project cannot be carried out.

Mr. BLAKE. I cannot accede to the view put forward by the hon. Minister. It is true we are not asked to vote the money on this occasion, but we are asked to place on the Statute-book a law authorizing the adoption of a particular policy, the policy of adding to the two batteries another battery of artillery, a troop of cavalry and three troops of infantry, making together a force not exceeding 750 men. We are entitled to receive from the hon. gentleman full explanations of what the carrying out of this policy will involve, and amongst other points what it will involve financially. It is true the hon. gentleman is not asking us to vote the money, but he is asking us to agree that these forces shall be created, and of course we know that this policy cannot be carried out without money being voted, and if we assent to the creation of this force, we cannot refuse the amount which may be placed in the Estimates when they come to be considered. The precise details of the outlay may form a subject for discussion on the Estimates, but some information as to the cost, as to the proposed location of the troops, and matters of that nature should be furnished on this occasion when the Committee are considering the proposed change, modification or extension of the policy which has hitherto prevailed with respect to a permanent active force.

Mr. CARON. The hon. gentleman is perfectly right in stating that all information should be given at this stage, and I have always been willing, and am still willing, to afford him all information that can be given upon the policy of the Government as to the establishment of the different schools of infantry and artillery.

Mr. BLAKE. May I ask where the new battery is to be stationed?

Mr. CARON. I was going to explain. The intention of the Government is to make the whole of British Columbia one arm of the service, and to place there a battery of artil-