

'Clothing and Stores.' It is very desirable that the executive shall have this power. It is impossible for me to say at this moment what amount of money should be used for annual drill and what amount might be more profitably used for the extensive proposals which we are making with reference to the teaching of rifle shooting. In view of the explanations of the object I have in view, I am sure the House will be prepared to give this additional elasticity to the vote for the purposes of annual drill. I may say that I believe that this can be done with little or no increase in the amount of money which we have been expending upon annual drill.

I propose in the future to take advantage of the discovery which has recently been made in connection with the cartridge factory of a cheap form of cartridge which can be manufactured at a very low price and which is safe to be used almost anywhere—it does not require the expensive rifle ranges which it is necessary to have when using ammunition of full strength. I would propose in the future that no man shall be taken on the force as a recruit until he had been tried with the rifle to see whether he showed any reasonable possibility of becoming a useful soldier. In this way we will give new interest to the force; we will bring into it a class of men who mean business, and we will exclude from it a most undesirable class of which a considerable number now attend the annual camps.

My hon. friend (Mr. Tisdale) discussed the question of the construction of another arsenal in Canada, and he has referred to some statements which were made during former sessions. I am quite prepared to stand by what I said in the past: That no doubt the day is near at hand, if it has not already come, when we should at least have one other arsenal situated in a more central position in this country. I may say to the House, however, that we are now engaged in increasing enormously the capacity of the arsenal at Quebec, so that the output after a year hence will be four times what it is now. Instead of an annual output of perhaps 2,000,000 a year, we shall then have an annual output of 6,000,000 or 7,000,000 rounds a year, and that, mark you, working at only an eight hour basis. It would practically mean that we will have an arsenal at Quebec at which 18,000,000 or 20,000,000 cartridges can be manufactured working full time. What we really need more just now than an additional arsenal is two or three additional magazines in which to store our cartridges. As they are manufactured at Quebec they can be moved westward to convenient points for storage in these magazines. My hon. friend has asked me to state what amount of ammunition we have on hand—

Hon. Mr. TISDALE. And where is it?

Hon. Mr. BORDEN (King's).

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. That question was asked last year by the late member for York (Mr. Wallace), and I then stated that I thought there were reasons why it was undesirable to make a public statement as to that, but I will give the information privately—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I still think so, but I shall tell any hon. gentleman in the House who comes to me and wants the information. Of course we have a considerable quantity at Toronto; we have a sufficient quantity at Kingston, and we have a considerable quantity at London. My hon. friend (Mr. Tisdale) said that he thought that some time very soon there should be even a third arsenal in our great North-west. I would hardly go that far. I think something of the kind might be considered as to British Columbia, but in case of a war the question of holding the intermediate country between the west and the east might be so doubtful as to render it undesirable to place a cartridge factory there which might be captured by the enemy and turned against us. However, that is a matter more particularly for the consideration of military men.

Hon. Mr. TISDALE. Give them a magazine there in the meantime.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Yes, I think so. In this connection I might refer to the question of arms, a most pertinent one. My hon. friend has said that we have the men, but unfortunately we have not the arms, which is quite true. We have a very small number relatively to the number of men who could be enlisted; but the House I am sure will be glad to learn that we are taking means to supply that want, and that we hope within a short time to have in operation within Canada a factory which will turn out from 12,000 to 15,000 stand of rifles each year if required, and which, working full time day and night, could turn out more than double that number.

Hon. Mr. TISDALE. Where is it to be situated?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. That is not settled yet, but it will be probably near the present arsenal.

Mr. SPROULE. Is that the Ross Company which is being incorporated that you refer to?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Yes, the Sir Charles Ross rifle. I may say that that rifle was some months ago placed in the hands of a committee composed of Colonel Otter, Colonel Hughes, Colonel Anderson, Colonel Gibson, and one or two others, who spent a great deal of time, with the assistance of the staff at headquarters, and of an expert, Major Gaudet, who is in charge of the cartridge