

tions of the Admiralty and the War Office, they fully appreciate the duty of the Dominion, as it advances in population and wealth, to make more liberal outlay for those necessary preparations of self-defence which every country has to assume and bear. That the taxpayers of the United Kingdom should desire to be relieved of some of the burdens which they bear in connection with military expenditure is quite reasonable. Canada, in the development of its own militia system, will be found ready to respond to that desire by taking upon itself some of the services in the Dominion which have hitherto been borne by the imperial government. What has already been done by Canada must give assurance of the disposition of the Canadian people to recognize their proper obligations. In the early years of the Dominion an understanding was come to between the imperial and Canadian government that Canada should expend about \$1,000,000 annually on her militia system. From time to time that expenditure has been voluntarily increased, and at present—apart from the special outlay in connection with the maintenance of the garrison at Halifax, the Dominion is expending about \$2,000,000 annually on her militia. . . .

In conclusion the ministers repeat, that, while the Canadian government are obliged to dissent from the measures proposed they fully appreciate the obligation of the Dominion to make expenditures for the purposes of defence in proportion to the increasing population and wealth of the country. They are willing that these expenditures shall be so directed as to relieve the taxpayer of the mother country from some of the burdens which she now bears, and they have the strongest desire to carry out their defence schemes in co-operation with the imperial authorities and under the advice of experienced imperial officers so far as this is consistent with the principle of local self-government which has proved so great a factor in the promotion of imperial unity.

Mr. FOSTER. If I understood the minister aright, Mr. Brodrick's proposition was that the one in four should be held capable for and liable to service abroad, if such were proffered by the Dominion government?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. There was no power outside the Dominion government which could send that one in four abroad?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. No.

Mr. FOSTER. What struck me was that the answer of the Canadian ministers went on the assumption that that would trench on the rights of the Dominion government to complete independence in the matter. I do not take it that Mr. Brodrick's proposition meant that there should be any call by a British minister, but that only if occasion arose in the empire for a contribution to defence by Canada if the Canadian ministry decided to proffer assistance, then, that the men who would go abroad would be a trained body.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. That, I think, is in effect what Mr. Brodrick intended.

Mr. FOSTER. Then I did not understand the position taken by the minister, that such a proposition would derogate from the absolute control of Canada over her militia system and her own men.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Of course, under the militia law of this country it would be impossible to organize such a force. It has always been open to anybody in Canada to volunteer for service abroad, but it was not under the militia law of that day, nor is it under the militia law of the present day, competent for the government of this country to compel anybody who may belong to the militia of Canada to serve abroad. It always has to be a question of voluntary service, and we felt—I may say that I felt, at any rate, and I still think—that it would be undesirable to create, even if we could in this country, a special force. I thought it would interfere with the welfare of the militia as a whole to create, even if we had the power to do so, a special service which would receive special favour, which would be ear-marked, to use Mr. Barton's expression, for service abroad. I may add that I have here a report which was submitted to the conference from the War Office by a very distinguished officer, Lieutenant-Colonel E. A. Altham, C.M.G., Assistant Quartermaster General at Headquarters, dealing with the whole question of service in the colonies and what assistance might fairly be asked for from the colonies. In that part of his memorandum which refers to Canada he says:

It may, therefore, be concluded that the best way in which Canada can co-operate in imperial defence is by making her militia an efficient force. It is more important that the Canadian ministry be strongly pressed to take this reasonable precaution than that they should maintain contingents for general imperial service.

I am reading from the papers relating to the Intercolonial Conference, page 55. Of course, the writer goes on to say, at the conclusion of this paper, that he would hope that a small force might be contributed from Canada, but what I have read seemed to me to have a very direct bearing upon the condition of things here, and seemed really to support very strongly the view which the administration took at that time and still holds.

Mr. BERGERON. Would the permanent force that is now established be the force called out in case of strikes?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Yes.

Mr. BERGERON. At the expense of the country instead of the municipality?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The Militia Law of Canada passed last session provides that the permanent force should be called upon first in any case of riots or trouble.