

nection with the credit vote, and I suppose that, when incorporated in a Bill, the language will be much the same. Could the Government apply a portion of the vote proposed by this Bill for, say, charitable purposes to relieve distress during the coming months if they saw fit?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I would think we could do that under subsection (d). We have purposely made this as broad as possible because one cannot foresee all contingencies.

Mr. MACDONALD: I would ask the Minister of Militia to make a statement of authoritative character in regard to the destination of the troops who are now gathering at Valcartier. There seems to be in some portions of Canada some misunderstanding as to the nature of that gathering. It has been stated that the first 20,000 men are to go direct to Belgium, to enter immediately into active service, and that my hon. friend has so communicated to the War Office. I do not want to get any information which might in any way conflict with the very proper secrecy of military operations, but from the standpoint of volunteering, and from that of those who are interested in the volunteers who are offering their services, I think the minister ought, so far as he possibly can, to take the House and the country into his confidence, so that we would know exactly what the position is in regard to these men who are volunteering to go to the war.

Mr. SAM HUGHES: The hon. gentleman will observe by the Order in Council and by the reports from the other side, which I believe have been laid before the House, and published, that the British authorities have accepted the offer of assistance.

When we asked what the nature of that assistance should be, they stated they would like a division. We are simply preparing to send a division forward. We have nothing whatever to say as to the destination of the troops once they cross the water, nor have we been informed as to what their destination may be. A great many troops will always be required, not in the immediate fighting line but leading up to it, and I presume that in due time our boys will take their turn with the rest of them. We have no information on the subject whatever.

Mr. MACDONALD: I assume that the division which is being sent will comprise about 20,000 men. Does the minister intend to mobilize any additional force at Valcar-

[Mr. A. K. Maclean.]

tier or at any other place in Canada, by way of preparation? A large number of men have already volunteered; and I have no doubt that as the war goes on many more will volunteer. Does the Government intend to prepare for the training of these men in any definite way, so that, if their services are required, they will be all the better trained for utilization?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I answered a few moments ago practically the question which my hon. friend has addressed to the Government, when I said that, in addition to the force that is to be sent overseas, there would be a certain number of the active militia on active service for the defence of Canada at Atlantic, Pacific and other points, but that beyond that we would not go at the present time, and that our course in the future with regard to the subject which my hon. friend has brought up would have to be determined by contingencies which we cannot foresee at present.

Mr. MACDONALD: Would the minister say what special use is being made of the permanent force at Halifax and other points? Are the officers of the permanent force to be sent on this contingent, or is it to be confined entirely to volunteers?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I would like my hon. friend not to press that question just at present. There are some confidential communications which are not ready to be made public at the moment, and which make it undesirable for me to say anything on that subject at the present time. Did my hon. friend inquire as to the disposition of the officers?

Mr. MACDONALD: What I was asking more particularly was whether the force to be sent over was to be selected, so far as the officers and men were concerned, wholly from the volunteers, or whether any of the officers attached to the permanent force were to be attached to the force that is being sent.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: One regiment of cavalry and two batteries of horse artillery are to go from the permanent force.

Mr. MACDONALD: Has anything been done in the way of providing an engineering corps? The minister has doubtless had offers of service from engineers. Has anything been done by which their services can be utilized?

Mr. SAM. HUGHES: An engineering corps is going and we are utilizing a num-