

have and out of which in the future the militia can be recruited at the very minimum of cost.

Now, Sir, I come to the consideration of what is perhaps next in importance to the considerations which I have already presented to the committee, the question of matériel, arms, ammunition, equipment and so on. While I do not think it would be prudent to go too fully into this, nor required that I should do so, I would like to repeat what I have said in this House before that I will be glad at any time to have any hon. member come to my department or go and visit the militia council and there get any information which we can give him with reference to these matters. There are some matters with reference to the militia, connected with quantities of rifles, ammunition, &c., which it is not desirable to discuss in parliament, but we will welcome to the department representatives from the opposition or supporters of the government who wish to be informed. We will always be glad to give them any information in our power. With regard to artillery, one of the most important arms of the service, I may say this much that we have ordered in England the latest and best gun, the 18½ pounder. These guns are now being manufactured and delivery will begin within a very short time. Then certain 7.5 and 4.7 and 6-inch guns as well as other guns which have been considered to be necessary by the military authorities have been ordered and are in course of being delivered. I have already spoken of rifles. I think there are orders for 15,000 or 20,000 rifles placed with the Ross Company, and I believe that in the course of a very short time rifles will be delivered at the rate of at least 1,000 a month and it is proposed to go on ordering these rifles until such time as we shall have secured sufficient, certainly up to the point of 100,000, and I should hope a much larger number. For these artillery guns, the artillery limbers, wagons, &c., are being manufactured in this country. The ammunition is also being manufactured or will shortly all be manufactured in Canada.

Mr. TISDALE. For these different ranges and sizes?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. For these different sizes. Clothing, saddlery and equipment are all being manufactured in Canada so that at the present moment—and I think this is an interesting fact and one of which we should be proud—of the large vote of \$1,225,000 for matériel every cent is being expended in Canada except that for artillery which is manufactured in England. So that out of the \$1,225,000 annually expended all but \$500,000 is being expended in this country.

Mr. FOSTER. Can the minister give us an idea of the comparative cost of the

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Canadian manufacture and that of the British army?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The department usually gives the benefit of the duty less the one-third preference off, as compared with the war office prices. We have in the department the war office prices, and on those the comparison is made, so that the prices are partially set by the department. The Ross rifle costs, under the contract, \$25. I understand that the war office price for the new rifle is between \$21 and \$22, and that the rifle manufactured by the trade at the war office price, with the expense of importation added, would cost very nearly as much landed here as we are paying for the Ross rifle. In the saddlery and clothing, I think there is very little difference.

With regard to the manufacture of larger guns, the committee will be interested in hearing that several large English concerns are looking into the advisability of offering to establish a factory in Canada, and if the requirements of the government were sufficient to enable us to make a contract for a term of years, there is no doubt that a factory would be established. I myself feel strongly that we ought to encourage the establishment of such works in Canada. If we are going to have an effective militia force, we should have one entirely self-contained and self-reliant. No one can tell what accident might arise in time of war. Communications with the mother country might be cut, and if we are going seriously to consider the question of taking the responsibility of our own defence into our own hands, it seems to me absolutely necessary that at the earliest possible moment some such step should be taken. One other thing should be done. Explosives are not manufactured in Canada. The materials out of which cartridges are made are not manufactured here. The government have an offer at the present moment from a party who is willing to take up the manufacture of cartridges at some point to be agreed upon in the province of Ontario, and to bind itself to manufacture explosives—cordite or whatever may be required—for its own factory and for the government factory. I believe that some result will come from this, and perhaps before very long.

Mr. WORTHINGTON. Is it the intention of the department, in addition to the guns mentioned, to supply quick-firing machine guns, such as the Colt gun and the 'Pom-Pom'?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Yes, some of these are included in the order that has been made—I am not able to say the number.