

sidered a full equivalent to the salary he now receives.

Mr. DAVIN. Taking the cost of living into account?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Exactly.

Mr. DAVIN. Where was he living?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. At Kentville, N.S., as I have already stated. With regard to the statement that has been made that I allowed this man to dictate his own salary, I said nothing of the kind. What I said was that I believed the man appointed was worth the amount of money he receives and that a man as good as he is to fill the place could not be got for less. I repeat that. He is one of the best in the service to-day, not only in the Militia Department, but in any department.

He will earn to the department and to the country more than the amount of his salary. Now with regard to the question of nepotism which has been raised by some of my hon. friends on the other side, I may say by way of preface that possibly they are about the last people to advance a criticism of that kind. But for the comfort of the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) who asked me whether he was a relative of mine, and for the satisfaction of some of my hon. friends opposite, I will say at once that he is my cousin. But while he has that disadvantage, he has the very great advantage of being a brother of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden); so that possibly my hon. friends may not feel so badly after they are fully aware of what his relationships are.

Mr. HUGHES. The discussion of this item may be a good occasion for me to make a few suggestions to the Minister. I notice here that salaries ranging from \$550 to \$1,000 are paid to third-class clerks, and salaries from \$700 upwards are paid to second-class clerks. I wish to draw the Minister's attention to this fact, that the officers who serve in the permanent corps in Canada are paid very much less than is paid to second-class or third-class clerks. Take, for instance, the officer commanding a battery and compare the work he does with that of one of these clerks, or an officer commanding a school of infantry, or an officer commanding a school of cavalry, and compare the work they do, their training, their technical knowledge and otherwise, with that which these clerks require. Then contrast the qualifications that are required for the militia with those of a third-class or second-class clerk, and there is really very little comparison between the two. I would take this opportunity of suggesting to the Minister the advisability of working out some system whereby the officers of the permanent corps of cavalry, in-

fantry or artillery, might be placed at least in a position somewhat equal to that of a second-class clerk. Officers commanding an infantry corps get \$3.50 a day, which is really less than many of these third-class clerks are getting, although they have to by their own uniform, a very expensive uniform, and are subjected to a great many other calls upon their purse that no civil servant in Ottawa is called upon to meet. I am satisfied that the people of this country would be pleased to see these officers placed, at all events on the same salary as a third-class clerk. Let the field officers be placed on the salary of a second-class clerk, and the officers commanding corps be placed in the same rank as first-class clerks. I am satisfied that would meet with the approval of the entire electorate of the country, and then we would be able to retain the services of the very best men that we now have in the force.

There is another point to which I will take the liberty of calling the Minister's attention, although it may not be strictly in order under this item. It is in connection with the working out of a scheme for the mobilization and transport of troops and supplies at the present time. The department at the present time is in a very chaotic condition in that respect, it has never been anything else. I would take the liberty of suggesting to the Minister of Militia and Defence that it might be advisable to form a mobilization department, putting our capable quartermaster general at the head of it, and having under him, say, the heads of the leading railways of the country. For the Grand Trunk Railway, take Mr. Wainwright, for the Canadian Pacific Railway, take either Sir William Van Horne or Mr. Shaughnessy, for the Canada Atlantic Railway, take Mr. Chamberlain, or any other officials of those roads for officers. Give them the rank of lieutenant colonel, perhaps, but let these men work out a plan whereby, in case of war, or if need arose of going into camp, the troops might be mobilized and moved from place to place. The steamship companies also might be represented. More than that, the men who have been in the habit of carrying out large contracts might have a place on this board. Take, for instance, a man like Mr. Davis, who has had great experience in engaging men and carrying out contracts—such a man would be invaluable for engineering purposes and in the construction of field works. Take, for conducting transportation, a gentleman like Mr. Mann or Mr. Mackenzie, who has had large experience in handling men and transporting material. These would be able to render invaluable service to the department in the way of bringing up troops. At the time the North-west rebellion as high as \$20 a day was paid for teams when the whole outfit was not worth more than \$40 or \$50. Yet these men were getting \$25 for stealing, for that is what