

vinces the one which had the best militia law was New Brunswick, and the best results had been obtained from the working of the law in that Province. The Bill he now introduced provided that the service companies enrolled for active service should serve for only two years, and that the volunteers should serve three years. The training to be exacted every year would be not less than eight days, and not more than sixteen, but any corps or company could drill on any days beyond this limit which might be agreeable to them, or which might be directed by their commanding officer. As regarded drill days not comprehended in the sixteen days, only the active militia men residing within two miles of the place of training should be required to come. The lieutenant-colonels, majors and captains of regiments would have to be resident within their own regimental divisions. They would thus know their own men, and the men would receive explanations of the system from officers residing among themselves, in whom they would have confidence. In 1862 there was an enrolment made under the law then existing, which gave for Ontario and Quebec 305,000 militia men, between the ages of 18 and 60, besides 25,000 volunteers. As a number of battalions did not make returns, an approximate estimate for these brought up the number to 475,000. Since that time the number must have increased to 600,000. New Brunswick now returned 43,009; and the number in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia combined must be 100,000—giving a grand total for the whole Dominion of 700,000 men able to defend the country. (Hear hear). Of these, and the fact was an important one, the number of seafaring men and sailors must be at least 70,000, of whom between 40,000 and 50,000 were furnished by Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Mr. Cartier proceeded to enlarge on this point at some length, shewing that the maritime power of England, as compared with that of France, rested on the number of its seafaring population. He quoted a remark of the first Napoleon, that he could build any number of war vessels, but what he was deficient in was sailors to man them, and pointed out with regard to England, that if all her navy and mariners were destroyed she had enough seafaring men employed in her commerce to man a new navy. The fact that we had 70,000 seafaring men here must be regarded, therefore, as a very important element in our military strength. By this Bill the captain, in making his enrolment, would have to distinguish between the Militia proper and the marine Militia. It has been stated in the Lower Provinces, in order to excite the prejudices of a portion of the inhabitants, that their Militia would be brought up to defend us here. Well! as regarded the