

Minister of Militia and the General commanding had visited British Columbia, the Government would act upon the report which the General might make on that district. I would like to ask the Minister whether the amount mentioned in the Estimates includes any sum for the purpose of forming a new corps of artillery on the main land of British Columbia?

Mr. PATTERSON (Huron). This matter is under consideration, and everything possible will be done to meet the requirements of the people on the main land of British Columbia.

Mr. BERGIN. I would like to ask my hon. friend the Minister if he has under consideration the reorganization of the medical staff of the militia? I made a recommendation in 1885, after the difficulty in the North-west, on this matter. I suppose my hon. friend the Minister is aware that the medical men of the militia—the militia surgeons—have formed an association for the purpose of bringing before the Minister the needs of the medical service. If the hon. Minister is aware of these things, as I suppose he is, it having been brought under the notice of the General, I would like to know if it is his intention to do anything toward the reorganization of that service, which now is certainly not creditable to the country? The manner in which the medical stores and comforts are provided for the camps is also most discreditable. Of course, I do not forget that my hon. friend has been but a short time at the head of the department, but I hope he will see that something is done to put this department of the service in good shape.

Mr. MILLS (Annapolis). I would like to ask the hon. Minister, in connection with this item, if he has taken into consideration the requirements of Annapolis for a battery? When I first entered Parliament in 1887, a large petition was presented to the department for this battery, and I understood at that time that there was not money for such a purpose. Now, I understand that it has been thought proper to disband a battery in Nova Scotia. That being the case, I think that the claims of Annapolis should have precedence in this matter. Annapolis Town is the oldest town in British North America, and the oldest in North America, with the exception of St. Augustine in Florida. A great deal has been said, both in the papers and in the Senate last session, with reference to this old town of Annapolis Royal. Nothing very special has been said but what has been referred to by myself during the sessions of Parliament since I first had the honour of representing the county. Annapolis garrison—the old fort of Annapolis—should be renovated and should not be neglected by the department, as it has been. The old block-house has been torn down, the ramparts are being destroyed, and no steps are being taken for their preservation. Nothing is done whatever for the preservation of the fort. I consider that this is a burning disgrace for

Mr. CORBOULD.

the Dominion of Canada, composed, as it is, of two nations, French and English, who should take a deep and abiding interest in the old place. I urge upon the department that they should not only keep these old fortifications in a state of preservation, but they should also give what has been asked by the citizens of that vicinity, a battery for that place, particularly as one battery in Nova Scotia has, within the last year, been disbanded, by the recommendation of the General.

Mr. PATTERSON (Huron). If I find upon examination that the battery has been disbanded, as mentioned by my hon. friend, and funds are placed at our disposal for the creation of a battery at Annapolis, I shall be very happy to comply with the wishes of the hon. gentleman. As regards what my hon. friend from Stormont and Cornwall (Mr. Bergin) has said, any report or suggestion of his will be received with every respect, as coming from a gentleman well qualified to speak on these matters. I may say that special attention is being given this year to a proper supply of medical stores for the proposed camps of instruction.

Mr. SOMERVILLE. Before the item passes, I would like to call the attention of the Minister of Militia to pages 50, 51, 52 and 53—C of the Auditor-General's Report. He will find there enumerated a lot of irregularities in the payment of officers and men. I think it is well to call his attention to the fact that a great many irregularities have taken place in that respect in the militia service. I notice that in one case, out of forty-five men in one company, twenty-two signatures are in one hand-writing, and twenty men have not even signed the pay-list, and so on. In company No. 4, forty-one out of forty-three signatures are in the hand-writing of Captain H. Tetu; in company 5, forty-two out of forty-four signatures are in one hand-writing. So all through the list. A great many officers and men were paid more than they were entitled to. In many cases men were paid who were not on the list at all, and the Auditor-General says the signatures were irregular, because, according to the regulations, each man entitled to receive pay should sign his own name, or make his mark and have it properly witnessed. Now, I think the fact that these irregularities are continued from year to year—because this matter was under discussion last session—must make it plain that some better supervision should be given to the payment of these men. Of course, we have the Auditor-General to supervise these payments; at the same time I think those who have charge of the Militia Department ought to see that some system is brought into force which will put a stop to these irregularities, and prevent officers drawing pay when they are not entitled to do so, and prevent the payment of men for services which are never rendered. I think the