

Military Field Day

Hon. Dr. Borden Makes Important Announcements in the Commons.

More Permanent Troops And Factory For Ross Rifle Promised.

Letters Carriers Do Not Get Long Hoped For Advance In Salaries.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, April 10.—This has been military day in the House. Hon. Dr. Borden, minister of militia, made several important announcements. He said that General O'Grady's proposal for the adoption of a militia reserve was now being put into effect, so that at a very slight expense and with the assistance of rifle clubs, the force could be trebled, giving over a hundred thousand men. He hoped next year to increase the permanent force to fifteen thousand. It would not be possible to increase the period of annual training to 21 days, but say once in three years a larger period may be allowed than at present.

More magazines for ammunition were required, and he thought it might be advisable in time to establish an arsenal in British Columbia. The minister expressed the opinion that in a short time there would be a factory capable of turning out 120,000 to 150,000 rounds of arms a year, and double that quantity working extra time. A company formed by Sir Charles Ross had undertaken to build a factory. This rifle had been approved, but the contract with the company would provide that if the government desired to change the weapon the contractors would make the change.

As to the distribution of Lee-Enfield weapons, Dr. Borden said the experience in South Africa showed that the weapon was not so delicate as thought, and it was now proposed to place them more freely in the hands of the militia. He was sorry this had not been done before.

Mr. Mulock introduced a bill to amend the Postoffice Act, to provide for relieving from civil service examination the letter carriers, postmen, etc. Departmental examinations would be substituted. Letter carriers who now receive maximum salary in nine years may attain to it in half the time. Nothing was said about a general increase in salaries to letter carriers.

The government was promising a bonus of \$150,000 for the development of the arsenic mining industry.

Lady Minto left for England today. She received over a dozen bouquets from Ottawa people. The Guards' band played "Auld Lang Syne" as the train pulled out.

Dr. Borden and General O'Grady will tomorrow discuss the command of the new mounted infantry regiments. Colonel Turner and Major Williams, of Toronto, are spoken of favorably for colonels.

CHOLERA IN PHILIPPINES

Record of Deaths in Manila is a Heavy One.

Manila, April 10.—In the provinces up to date a total of 242 cholera cases, and 166 deaths from that disease, have been reported. In Manila the cholera totals are 206 cases and 100 deaths.

BOER LEADERS MEET.

Mr. Brodrick Says No Results Are Known So Far.

London, April 10.—The war secretary, Mr. Brodrick, in the House of Commons today, referring to the Boer leaders, said that no results were known so far.

ANOTHER SHINGLE MILL.

Albion Iron Works Has Completed Another Plant in Vancouver.

Vancouver, April 10.—(Special)—The Albion Iron Works has just completed the construction of a new shingle mill, the Chikilash Shingle Mill, on Harrison River. The mill has a capacity of 100,000 shingles per day, and will be in operation by the end of the month.

WHY THEY QUARRELED.

Swiss Government Declined to Interfere With Anarchist.

Berne, Switzerland, April 10.—The article which led to the quarrel between Switzerland and Italy appeared in the Swiss press, published in Geneva. The article was a sensational one, and it was not until the Italian government formally lodged by the Italian government, that the Swiss government declined to adopt this course, and the correspondence became acrimonious, leading finally to the rupture of the diplomatic relations.

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