

THE FORCE BEFORE PARLIAMENT.

An interesting discussion on the current year's appropriations.

Details of the vote passed—Claims on the pension list—Canadian made ammunition in British Columbia—The Biennial drills condemned—And relative expenditures on permanent and volunteer militia criticised—

Sir Adolphe favours a more generous policy—Canvas suits for the artillery; Ranges for the rifle-men; and midsummer schools for the studios.

IN the House of Commons on Friday last the appropriations for pensions and for the militia service were passed after brief but interesting discussion on several of the items.

THE PENSIONS.

An inquiry by Sir Richard Cartwright elicited from the Premier that Mrs. Gowanlock, whose husband was killed by the Indians at Frog Lake in 1885, will probably be granted a pension of \$400, the same as paid to Mrs. Delaney, wife of the Indian agent killed at the same time.

Col. Denison, on the item of \$4,530 for pensions for veterans of 1812, urged that these pensions should be paid next year in advance, as is the practice with other pensions. The Minister promised to give the request consideration. There are 151 of these pensioners still on the list, being seventy less than last year, and they get \$30 each annually. Two applications just presented are being considered by the department. Col. Kirkpatrick urged the government to continue the pensions to the widows of these veterans, but the Minister said there was no possibility of this being done.

Hon. A. G. Jones, of Halifax, on the item of \$25,000 for pensions to militia men on account of rebellion of 1885, asked if any decision had been arrived at in the case of Capt. Fortune of the 63rd Battalion, whose application has been before the department for some time. Sir Adolphe Caron replied that under the first report made in Capt. Fortune's case he was granted a gratuity, but representations have since been made to the department, and a report has been sent in by a new board of physicians, causing his case to again be submitted to the council, where the Minister's recommendation is now being considered.

On the item of \$4,324 for pensions payable on account of the rebellion of 1885, to Mounted Police, Prince Albert Volunteers and Police Scouts, Mr. N. F. Davin, M.P., called attention to what he considered the unfair treatment accorded to the Regina volunteers, who had been excepted from the grant of land for services in suppression of the rebellion, owing to the contention that they were home guards. He read documents to prove that they were regularly constituted militia. He also complained of the exceptions made in the issue of medals to the Mounted Police, and asked that medals should yet be issued to 150 of these who had been on important duty during the outbreak but had not been called under fire. Dr. Sproule endorsed Mr. Davin's claim on behalf of the Police, and also put in a claim for the Wood Mountain volunteers, who like those of Regina had been refused acknowledgment as militia. Sir Adolphe promised to reconsider these cases, in the light of the new evidence adduced. Consideration was also promised to a request made by Mr. Watson, M.P., that the pension granted to the mother of the late Capt. Brown, of the 90th, should be made equal to that granted the parents of the late Lieut. Swinford of the same corps.

THE MILITIA SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS.

At the evening session the estimates for the militia service were considered and passed after interesting discussion carried on mainly by the military men in the House. The amounts of the several appropriations, which are substantially the same as last year, are as follows:—

Salaries, Military branch and district staff.	
Major-General commanding the Militia—pay and allowance.	\$4,000
Aide-de-Camp to General Officer commanding	1,000
Adjutant-General at Headquarters—pay	2,600
do do allowance	600
District Deputy Adjutants General, six at \$1,200 each	7,200
do do allowances, six at \$500	3,000
Inspector of Artillery and Warlike Stores—pay	1,800
do do staff allowance	500
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Brigade Majors, Salaries, Transport expenses, etc.	\$14,100
Ammunition, including artillery ammunition, and manufacture of small arm ammunition at cartridge factory at Quebec	15,100
Clothing and great coats	55,000
Military stores	90,000
Public armouries and care of arms, including pay of storekeepers, caretakers, storemen and armourers	60,000
Drill instruction	\$40,000
Drill pay and other incidental expenses connected with the drill and training of the Militia	250,000
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Contingencies and general services not otherwise provided for, including grants to artillery and rifle associations and bands of efficient corps	290,000
Government grant to Dominion Rifle Association	38,000
Dominion Artillery Association, government grant towards artillery competition to be held in Canada, or for sending a team of Dominion artillerymen to compete at Shoburness	10,000
Royal Military College of Canada	2,000
Improved Rifled Ordnance	59,000
Permanent forces—pay and maintenance of A, B and C batteries, Schools of Artillery, at Quebec, Kingston and Victoria, B.C.	3,000
Cavalry and Infantry Schools at Quebec, Fredericton, St. Johns, P.Q., Toronto, London and Winnipeg	\$172,700
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	350,000
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	522,700

Military properties—drill sheds and rifle ranges	10,000
Care and maintenance of military properties	12,000
Construction and repairs of military properties	75,000
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	97,000
Barracks in British Columbia	4,000
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Total	\$1,319,900

There is a reduction of \$3,400 in the appropriation for salaries for military branch and district staff, this being caused by the reduction of Deputy Adjutants General from eight to six in number.

On the item for brigade majors' salaries, Hon. David Mills called attention to the claims of Col. Aylmer, Brigade Major of No. 1 District, for having discharged the duties of the Deputy Adjutant General during the absence of Col. Jackson in the North-west in 1885, and his subsequent attendance at the sittings of the Claims Commission. Sir Adolphe Caron explained that the delay in settlement arose largely out of a difference between the two officers respecting the amount of the account, but that the claim was in a fair way of settlement.

An increase of \$4,300 in the appropriation for brigade majors' salaries and expenses was inquired about by Hon. A. G. Jones of Halifax, eliciting the information from Sir Adolphe Caron that this was caused by an addition of two of these officers. One of these is Col. Gray, appointed some time ago in No. 2 District, the other is yet to be appointed, in the Eastern Townships, the appointment of a separate brigade major for this section being deemed necessary in the interest of the efficiency of the service.

Speaking of the action of the government in gradually placing the districts in charge of the officers of the permanent corps, Col. O'Brien commended the policy. "In the first place," he said, "the appointment of the commandant of the Infantry School as Deputy Adjutant General brings the school itself more directly in contact with the force, and prevents, to some extent, the tendency, always had by these corps, to assume a professional standing above that of the ordinary militia."

A CHARACTER FOR THE CARTRIDGES.

Hon. A. G. Jones inquired if any changes had been made at the Quebec Cartridge Factory during the year with the view of improving the ammunition. Sir Adolphe Caron, without answering the query as to the changes, read a letter he had received from Lt.-Col. Holmes, commanding "C" Battery in British Columbia. As, he said, it is the opinion of a practical man, who has been one of the leading shots in Canada during most of the competitions that have taken place, I think it will satisfy public opinion more than anything that I could say from personal knowledge:

"C" Battery has just completed going through the annual practice and has fired 4,000 rounds of Snider ammunition of Canadian manufacture, which was sent with the corps to British Columbia. As I have heard of discontent being prevalent regarding its reliability, although I had never seen any of it in use before, our supply here being of English make, I was prepared to find fault with it, if necessary. I must say, however, that what we have just used is, really as good and reliable as any I have seen anywhere, and I should be a judge, as I stood 5th in the Wimbledon team for 1873, and have always been a fair average shot. Peters also agrees with me as to its good quality, and speaks highly of it, and says all the fault found with it of late years is groundless. I thought you would like to have an opinion from British Columbia in this matter, as I presume some one may possibly bring up the same remarks which have appeared in the papers against the cartridge factory."

"Now," said Sir Adolphe, "this is the evidence of an officer who is not only a very good officer, but who is known to be a first-rate rifle shot. Major Peters is also known to be a capital shot and great sportsman, and is one of the best officers we have in the force. Relying upon information which I received from competent officers such as these, I believed that the cartridges manufactured in Canada were not perfect at first. Like every other new enterprise it required skilled men and skilled labour, and that skilled labour could only be acquired by the experience which we possess to-day, and which is making of the cartridge factory a success." In answer to enquiry as to the cost of manufacture of these cartridges, Sir Adolphe said it was \$20.00 a thousand.

ALLEGED SHODDY UNIFORM.

Mr. Lister having complained that the trousers issued to the force last summer were shoddy and wore out in a few days, Col. Tyrwhitt said he had taken so much interest in this matter that this year he had gone through the stores. His attention having been drawn particularly to the trousers, he found the cloth to be of an unusually good character, and the clothes much better finished in every way than they have been previously during the last twenty years. His corps had been using the issue of the year before last, and found them of fair quality. The trousers issued during the present year are of exceptionally good quality and much better finished than usual.

Sir Adolphe Caron read an article from the *Toronto Globe*, concerning a visit paid by Col. Gibson, M.P., commanding the 13th Batt., to the factory of W. E. Sanford & Co., military clothing contractors, at Hamilton, in which that officer highly praised the clothing turned out there.

MILITIA OFFICERS SPEAK UP FOR THE FORCE.

Col. O'Brien complained that while the city corps got their drill pay every year, the rural corps are only called out every two years.

Col. Denison endorsed this complaint. He saw that for some years back, while the amount for the ordinary militia had remained in the neighbourhood of \$290,000, that for the permanent force had increased. He thought the amounts for each were out of proportion. There was \$290,000 for drilling the ordinary militia of the country for this coming year, against \$522,700 set apart for permanent schools. In 1883-84 the drill pay was \$314,473.50; and for the permanent schools \$226,726.81. In 1884-1885 the drill pay was \$270,151.19; and the permanent corps had increased to \$280,945.51. In 1885-1886 the drill pay was \$281,207.91; and the permanent corps had again increased to \$350,858.87. In 1886-1887 the drill pay was \$290,000, and the permanent corps \$482,700, and for this coming year the drill pay is estimated at \$290,000, while the permanent corps is estimated at \$522,700. He regretted very much that some move was not being made in the direction of increasing the amount spent on the ordinary militia of the country as well as on the permanent corps. If the present policy was pursued he considered we would soon not have any militia, but only expensive schools in which the militia are to be trained.

In 1873, some fifteen years ago, we expended on the militia \$1,248,663; while we had a gross expenditure of \$19,174,647. Then we were drilling 45,000 men, or in other words all the militia we had in the country, and we were drilling them every