

suggestions in this report which he trusted the Minister of Militia when he had time to fully investigate and compare them with the facts as they existed, would see his way clear to carry out. It would add much, not only to the stability, but also to the popularity of the Volunteer force of this country.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said the salary of the Major General was precisely the same as that paid to the former Adjutant General.

Mr. BOWELL—But not the amount provided by law to be paid.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said it was practically the same, because the allowances brought it to that. It was due to the Imperial authorities to say that when this Government proposed to place an officer of that rank at the head of the Militia force, they received the utmost possible encouragement from HER MAJESTY'S Government, and they (the Imperial Government) undertook to supplement the salary, so that it would not amount to more. But for that arrangement this Government would have been obliged to ask a sum very considerably in excess of this, in order to obtain an officer of that rank in the Province.

Hon. Mr. VAIL said the hon. member for Northumberland referred to the expenditure for the militia service as too large. He (Mr. VAIL) agreed with the hon. member that the expenditure for this purpose should be reduced to the lowest possible point consistent with the obligations the Government rested under to protect the interests of the Dominion. It was just as necessary, perhaps, to keep up a militia force to be used for civil purposes when required as it would be to defend the country against foreign invasion, but he might say further that it would be quite out of the question at the present time, considering what the late Government had expended in the service, to reduce the amount named in the estimates for the present year. With regard to what the hon. member for Pontiac had said, the hon. member for North Hastings gave a complete answer to the opinion that our militia would be in a better position if the Commander in Chief were chosen from the militia force. The fact that the report laid upon the table this session was the best brought down for a long time, was due to the appointment of an Imperial

officer who had had great experience in the militia service in Ireland and England. When the college that was now being built, and which would be in operation at the end of the year, was in operation, he hoped in time we would be able to educate an officer qualified to fill the position. No one would more heartily welcome that day than himself (Mr. VAIL), for he believed they should offer a premium to native talent. If we had a man in this country fitted for the position he ought to have the preference, but under present circumstances it was better that the militia should be under the command of an Imperial officer. In regard to the salaries the only increase was in that of the Adjutant General. The increase was \$360. The gentleman who at present occupied that position was an experienced officer, and had been Deputy Adjutant General at headquarters. In consequence of the late appointment larger and more important duties would devolve upon him. After thinking over the whole matter, and having a due regard to economy and efficiency in the service, it was felt that this increase of \$360 was a wise one, since they were doing away the office of Deputy Adjutant General, and did not intend to appoint one as heretofore. He was quite sure the House would, after this explanation, vote the amount without any further question.

Mr. BOWELL said the hon. gentleman had not answered his question. He (Mr. BOWELL) did not find fault with the increase of salary, but on the contrary said he would approve of it. His question was why the words "paid allowance" were not added to the 29th clause as to the other, and whether it was intended to pay the allowance in addition to the salary.

Hon. Mr. VAIL said the intention was to let the salary remain as it had been since 1867, with the exception of this increase of \$360.

Mr. BOWELL thought it would be much better to pay a stated salary, as in the case of the Major General.

Hon. J. H. CAMERON called attention to the objections of the Premier with regard to the salary of the Major General, which he thought were likely to be misconstrued. The inference was that a part of the salary was to be paid by the Imperial Government. It would be a great pity that the Imperial Government should