

sible. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, with the leave of my seconder and of the House, I will withdraw my motion.

Amendment withdrawn.

Motion agreed to, and House went into Committee of Supply.

Militia and Defence—chargeable to capital—for purchase of ordnance, arms, rifle ranges, lands for military purposes, reserve stores of clothing, equipment, &c., and for fitting up rifle ranges, \$1,225,000.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN (Minister of Militia and Defence). I presume it will be more convenient to discuss, so far as can be done in a general way, the whole of the militia estimates, including the supplementaries that were brought down on Friday last. I wish to say, before proceeding with the discussion, that I asked the military members of the Militia Council a short time ago to prepare a memorandum, which they have done, and which to-day was laid on the table of the House, and will be printed. I have placed a copy of it in the hands of a number of members, I am sorry I have not been able to give one to every member. I think over fifty have been distributed to various members of the House. This memorandum deals with the general policy respecting the development of the militia. I think it will be found to be a very interesting document, and I shall have occasion to refer to it during my remarks. I have also had prepared by the accountant who is the finance member of the militia council, a statement in considerable detail of the whole of the various estimates for the current year. I think this paper will also be found of great interest. It has been ordered to be printed, and I shall have occasion to make some quotations from it also.

I suppose it is scarcely necessary, Mr. Chairman, to speak of the objects or the necessity of a militia force. That is a matter which was settled many years ago, and as to the importance of which there can be no question. However, during the last seven or eight years a very much greater interest has been taken in military matters in this country owing to the circumstances that have arisen within the country itself, such as the very great development of the country, and the events which have occurred outside of this country in which the empire has been interested. The war in South Africa has been one and the war which is going on to-day between Russia and Japan is another of the matters which causes all countries, even the smallest and the weakest, to pay more attention to the question of defence than they have done before. I may add too that what is transpiring to-day in the war to which I have just referred is an object lesson which teaches the weaker countries that their case may not be as hopeless as it might seem when they

consider the smallness of their population and their comparative poverty. The first object of a militia force is the maintenance of the civil power in the country. Its second object is to defend the soil of the country against invasion. The question may be asked: Is it possible to make a militia force such as ours, which is a purely voluntary force, an efficient one? Is it possible to make such a force one such as could be relied upon in the hour of trouble, in the event of a severe attack from without or serious troubles within? Mr. Speaker, I am inclined to think that it is; in fact, I have very little doubt that it could be made effective. We have in Switzerland an evidence of what can be done in the way of perfecting a militia force. That country has an army, which is a militia army of perhaps 250,000 men, which is said to be one of the most completely equipped in every sense of the word of any army in the world. But, it will be answered that the militia force of Switzerland is one in which compulsory enlistment exists. That is true. That is the essential difference between the condition in Switzerland and the condition in Canada. Anglo-Saxons have not been in the habit of submitting to compulsory military training, and certainly at this moment we cannot consider the question from that point of view. The question then is this: Can a voluntary militia service such as ours be made efficient? I answer that question again in the affirmative. I might appeal to history to prove the truth of my assertion. I will not do more than refer to what transpired in 1776, in 1812, during the Fenian invasion of 1866 and 1870, to what occurred in the Northwest and particularly in the later rebellion of 1885, and I may add the bravery of Canadian troops who served in South Africa also as evidence of the fact that the Canadian people are made of the right kind of material to make an army. It is true that during the earlier times to which I have referred, the militia of this country, or rather of the different provinces which make up this country, were under the guidance of the imperial army. There were garrisons in various parts of Canada in those days and up to 1870 or 1871. The imperial army was the backbone of the force in those times and supplied the staff very largely and the departments which go to make up a properly constituted army. But, during the Northwest rebellion of 1885, the militia of Canada, under the Canadian government, carried out all its work without, I believe, any assistance whatever from the imperial army and succeeded in subduing what at one time certainly was a very formidable rebellion. Now, what are the important things to make the militia effective? I would say first a sound administration which is the sine qua non and, of course, I must add sufficient money in order to carry the various plans and schemes recommended by the administration into effect.