

Hon. Mr. TISDALE. Just enough for the force. Well, I do not urge hasty action in regard to that point, for this reason, that I understand evolutions are going on all the time in regard to the British arms. When we get the proper kind of arms we ought to have a reserve supply at the different headquarters. And so with regard to what the General says about clothing and supplies, and more especially ammunition. Rifles and men are of no use without ammunition; and we want it distributed so that we can always get it, in case any internal disturbance should arise, but more especially if we are ever attacked from outside. Now what does the General suggest? As I read his suggestion, he proposes, with our present force, calling for no more officers, calling for no more money, to put it on a complete war footing. I think this suggestion is worthy of a gentleman who is worthy to command as Major General any colony of the empire, and especially Canada; and I hope the minister will give it his serious attention. I hope he will do more, that he will have the courage to act upon some of these suggestions, because it requires a certain amount of courage to ask the Minister of Finance for extra money for the militia. But these are growing times, we are told, and if they are, let us take what we want with no niggard hand as long as we are satisfied that it will be well used, as I think it will, in the defence of this country. The men liable under the Militia Act can be mobilized in no other way, and if the time comes it would give us a very respectable force ready to our hand. The General also recommends more days of drill. Well, that is a difficulty too, but I never knew a time in the history of Canada, or of the empire, when this suggestion would be more likely to be accepted in a proper spirit, and that arrangements should be made for an additional amount of training. The decentralization that he speaks of—I am sure the Minister of Militia and Defence will go with him in regard to that. It scarcely requires argument, it simply means that the supply of arms and the organization of the men shall be in such shape that you have not got to go to headquarters for everything, that you can get everything to your hand, and can utilize it in the field at once, and at proper points, with the proper quota of men armed and supplied with ammunition; for we already have the men, the world has no men superior to our Canadian boys in my opinion. I do not know that I have anything more to say. I shall be glad if what I have said will induce the hon. gentlemen who are members of this great legislative body to pay more attention to this subject. We have a country second to none in the world, with the same amount of population, with undeveloped resources sufficient for a hundred millions of people. And the time will come fast now, we see it coming, when the possibilities of Canada and the capabilities of

Canada will attract world wide attention. Our great cousins to the south at last have wakened up to the knowledge of it, and good men, and true men, and many men, are coming here, and are taking advantage of it. Let me say that I have visited many parts of the west in my younger days, and sometimes in my older days, and there was no place where I liked to go better than in the wilds of those far off countries. There are hundreds of thousands of men, in those far western states (that used to be territories) who will make the best sort of pioneers, and we have this great class to draw upon. You have no conception of the hardships of their lives, because, west of the Missouri river, there is only about 10 per cent of arable land to supply the wants of this vast number of people. These eastern states that we are drawing from now were the richest states of the union, but the people inhabiting them have discovered the wonderful richness of the vast plains and valleys bordering the great rivers of our western country, and they are seeking homesteads there. I will tell hon. gentlemen the reason why these people will become good citizens. They are the kind of men who do not like to live in a country where they do not vote and so that they may exercise the rights of citizenship they will take the oath of allegiance. When they come in under our institutions they will be surprised and delighted to find that our institutions are truly democratic and that our administration of the law is as strict against the rich man as against the poor one. They will quickly lose any affinity with the country from which they come and like the rest of us they will become good, sound, loyal, British subjects.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Hon. F. W. Borden). Mr. Chairman, I think the members of this committee will feel greatly indebted to my hon. friend (Hon. Mr. Tisdale), who was my predecessor in office, for having given as much attention as he has to this very important subject and for having placed his views before the committee in the very clear and forcible manner in which he has done. I, personally, feel very much indebted to him for the very able address which he has made this afternoon. I quite agree with him that there has been too great a disposition in the past to treat the expenditure on account of the defences of this country in too light a way and not to give the serious consideration to such an important matter that it is deserving of. My hon. friend closed with a few very eloquent references to the present prosperous condition and vast resources of this country. I would simply add to what he said this one observation, with which I am sure every hon. member will agree, that the gifts which we possess, the great natural resources, carry with them their responsibility. Every country which is deserving of the blessings which we en-

Hon. Mr. BORDEN (King's).