

tresses as naval bases on Canadian territory. I do not find any fault with what my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) said with regard to the militia. On the whole, his criticism was exceedingly fair, and we are agreed as to the object to be attained. He agrees with me that it is desirable we should have in Canada a force of at least 100,000 well trained, well equipped and efficient men. But he did criticise the disproportion, as he said, between the head and the body; between the staff and the main body of the force. I am perhaps not more than he is an expert in these matters, but I have had more to do with studying the question, and I can assure him that to-day the various staffs which make up the general staff of the Canadian militia are far below that of any similar organization—even taking the 50,000 force we now have in Canada—when you consider the large number of teaching depots—7 or 8—which we have, and which are the sources from which the education of the active militia is to be obtained.

The cost of the whole staff of the country, I understand, is about \$80,000 out of the many millions which we are spending upon the militia in training, in maintaining depots and in the purchase of matériel. I think this is the smallest possible amount that would be sufficient for such a purpose. A head which is not well balanced, which is not complete, which, so to speak, does not possess all the bumps, is not very much good. You must have every branch, in embryo it may be, upon which you can build an army fit for the field; and you must have these officers constantly engaged in their duties, and gaining a constant experience which will enable them in time of trouble to take the field with advantage. The hon. gentleman has said that this should not be an offensive force. Certainly not. The very name of the force, militia and defence, implies what it is—a force, first, for the maintenance of the civil power in the country, and, secondly, for the purpose of repelling invasion.

Another question asked is, what have we got in the nature of heavy artillery? As I explained yesterday, it is not proper that details of that kind should be given; but I mentioned that guns have been ordered of the very greatest power and precision, and some of them have been delivered—guns which would be absolutely sufficient for the purposes required of them. Orders have been placed ahead for at least three years. I may say that there has been a delay in the delivery of the Ross rifles; but they are now being delivered, and I hope that by the time we meet again a very large number will have been delivered. We are to-day manufacturing 9,000,000 or 10,000,000 rounds of ammunition annually where a few years ago we manufactured 1,000,000 rounds. By working double time we are able in our government factory to manufacture 18,000,-

000 rounds of small arm ammunition in the year. Then, we have other reserves, and our reserves are increasing.

Mr. FOSTER. How many rounds do you use in the year?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000. I wish to say before sitting down that I have been greatly encouraged by the sympathetic manner in which this question of expenditure upon the militia and the work we have been trying to do has been met by gentlemen on both sides of the House. It augurs well, I think, for the success of the militia that a discussion so important as this, in which, if hon. gentlemen were anxious to look for opportunity of criticism, fair or unfair, they could no doubt easily find it—

Mr. BERGERON. Like the old times, when my hon. friend was in opposition.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I was not one of the sinners, though. I say it augurs well, and I hope I shall be able to appreciate the treatment which has been meted out to me in this respect by trying to make myself worthy in the future of a continuation of the same treatment.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. With the hon. minister's permission, I would like to mention a little matter which I forgot. He will remember that a year or two ago the idea of encouraging regiments other than city regiments to send representatives to the Dominion Rifle Association meetings was talked over; and it was suggested that each regiment should select in its own way two of its crack shots, whose expenses to the meetings would be paid by the Dominion government. Has the minister taken any steps in that direction?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I have not; but since the hon. gentleman has mentioned it, I will see that the matter is brought to the notice of the Army Council.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time, considered in committee, reported, read the third time and passed.

#### FRANCHISE ACT AMENDMENT.

House in committee on Bill (No. 52) to amend the Franchise Act, 1898.—Mr. Fitzpatrick.

On section 1,

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. This is the Bill as to which I think I had some correspondence with the Minister of Justice early in the session?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Yes.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I think it answers the purpose which both of us had in view.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Yes, exactly.