

the present government came in and I am pleased to say that I have succeeded in getting claims fixed up which have stood in abeyance for a considerable length of time. I want to repeat to-night what I said when I was on the other side of the House and that is that I do not think that the amount of money spent in this country for militia and defence is out of all proportion to the amount of money that is spent, for instance, upon agriculture. I said that on the other side of the House and I repeat that statement from this side of the House to-night. That is still my opinion. I think there is plenty of room for curtailing expenditure along that line. There has been a great deal of room for it in years past and I am glad to see that the present hon. Minister of Militia (Mr. Huhges) is making a cut in the neighbourhood of half a million dollars as compared with the estimates of last year.

Mr. CARVELL. He has made an increase over last year.

Mr. EDWARDS. No, that is the statement that he has made.

Mr. CARVELL. If my hon. friend will look at page 48 of the estimates he will find that the minister demands an increase of \$191,000 and there are other items that can be figured up beyond that and we will get the supplementaries for the next session of parliament.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). As prepared by this government my estimates are nearly half a million less than the estimates which I found had been prepared by the former government.

Mr. CARVELL. That may be so.

Mr. EDWARDS. Then, as I understand I think this is a step in the right direction. I do not think that you can find fault with these hon. gentlemen for criticising these estimates, but I think it would come with better grace from them if they had given a little of this criticism in years gone by instead of reserving it all for the present occasion.

Mr. E. LAPOINTE (Kamouraska). (Translation). Mr. Chairman, I cannot let this resolution pass without expressing my deep surprise at the stand taken by the hon. member coming from my province, and who sits on the other side of the House. I expected on their part virulent protest against the item asked by the hon. member the Minister of Militia, and I was far from thinking that he would meet his request with an approbatory silence.

I have taken part in the now famous Drummond-Arthabaska in 1910. I have

Mr. EDWARDS.

heard during that election many of these hon. members, criticising the expenses incurred by the government, for the annual camps of the Canadian militia.

I have heard them make violent appeals and state that the government were spending hundreds of thousands of dollars sending young men—I apologize to the House for using the expression, but it was the one they used—to get drunk in the camps at Lévis, Three Rivers and St. Johns.

I am exceedingly surprised to see that to-day, when an additional expenditure of \$130,000 is proposed, not for the annual drill of the ordinary militia, but towards the training of school boys, ten or twelve years old, who, as stated by the minister, will be turned into as many soldiers. I am, I repeat it, exceedingly surprised that not a word of protest is forthcoming from hon. members on the other side.

Evidently, in regard to this question, as in regard to several others, which have come up since the opening of this session, it is the faction represented in the Cabinet by the hon. Minister of Militia, which has won the day over the other faction represented by the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Monk) and the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Pelletier). The bellicose views of my hon. friend the Minister of Militia have prevailed over the peaceful teachings of the hon. Minister of Public Works and his supporters.

In the course of the last electoral contest, when the establishment of a Canadian navy was being denounced so passionately in the province of Quebec, I remember hearing the hon. member for P'Islet (Mr. Paquet) state in fervid tones that the government had written a bloody page in the annals of our country. I wonder what the hon. member and his friends think of the page which the hon. Minister of Militia is about to write just now in our annals. As a matter of fact, what the Minister of Militia is anxious to accomplish through this resolution is, as I have stated, to convert into soldiers all the school children in the country. The proof of it, Mr. Chairman, is in the manifest, a copy of which the hon. minister, has caused to be handed to every hon. member and in which his object is clearly set forth:

If the nation is to learn to shoot this must be taught to the boys. If this movement is handled by a capable and diplomatic staff working hand in hand with the educational authorities it will mean that every boy in the country will learn to shoot and drill, and without arousing the prejudices of the people universal training of the youth of the country will be obtained.