

desired to be informed whether the carbines and saddlery provided for the Cavalry Militia of Canada should be forwarded to that country.

I might have answered this question by the last mail, but I preferred postponing my reply until after the termination of the session of the Provincial Parliament in order that I might, in laying before your Grace my views on the whole question of the supply or military stores to this colony, have the advantage of knowing the changes which the legislature of Canada might have made in the Militia Law of the Province.

Encl. 1.

Encl. 2.

I have the honour to enclose for your Grace's information a copy of the Act for that purpose, to which I yesterday signified Her Majesty's assent. I also enclose a copy of the Act, of which this Act is an amendment.

Your Grace will observe that substantially the amendments consist of provisions.

- 1st. For securing more correct muster rolls of the sedentary militia, (the whole male population of the Province between 18 and 60 years of age.)
- 2nd. For increasing the number of the active force from 5,000 to 10,000 men, and the number of days drill in the year from 6 to 12.
- 3rd. For enabling the Governor-General in the event of war to enlist regiments independent of the militia for the purposes of the war.
- 4th. Empowering the formation of drill associations amongst persons not belonging to the active force.

Encl. 3.

Encl. 4.

I have also the honour to enclose a copy of the report of the commission on militia affairs appointed early in last spring, and of the bill founded on that report, which was rejected on its second reading by the legislative assembly.

The requisitions which I have made to your Grace for clothing were based on the force which that bill, if it had become law, would have called into existence.

The legislature has refused to recognise the present necessity for the military organization of the people of the Province to so large an extent as was contemplated by this Bill, but it has left untouched the powers which the old Militia Law conferred on the Governor-General (clause 61.) to "call out the militia or any part thereof, when ever in his opinion it is advisable so to do by reason of war, invasion, or insurrection or imminent danger of any of them."

The Militia Commission, which numbered amongst its members military officers and civilians intimately acquainted with this Province, laid it down as their opinion (par. 8.), that to provide an efficient force for the defence of the country, an active force of 50,000 men, with a reserve of the same number ought to be provided.

This statement affords an index to the number of militiamen whom it would be my duty to call out in case the Province should unhappily become the seat of war.

It is true that in consequence of the failure of the Bill referred to, the men, when called out, will not be so efficient as we might have expected them to prove if they had been organized under its provisions, but still, with the exception of the 10,000 volunteers sanctioned by the new Act, they would be the only contribution which the Province would, under the law as it now stands, have it in its power to make towards its defence.

While I do not question the right of the Provincial Parliament to act as they have done in providing, in my judgment, so scantily for the defence of their territory, and while I am ready to admit that events may prove that in taking this course the representatives of the people in this Province are acting with sounder judgment than if they adopted a different line of conduct, I am on the other hand very anxious that should their views unhappily prove erroneous, I may be in a position to make the most efficient use of the means placed at my disposal.

It is with this object that I would earnestly press upon your Grace the propriety of largely augmenting, during the present navigation season, the supply of arms and ammunition in store in Canada, and of forwarding the other articles for which I have applied, cavalry equipments included, not for immediate issue to the militia force of the Province, but to meet the demand which must arise if the necessity for calling out the militia should ever unhappily occur.