

LONDON, MARCH 14.

*Speech of Lord Castlereagh on the Debate upon the
ARMY ESTIMATES.*

LORD CASTLEREAGH, adverting to the Speech of the Honourable General (Tarleton,) said that it was certainly competent for any Member, upon the Army Estimates, to pursue any topics of military discussion he thought fit, but as the observations with which he (Lord Castlereagh) was desirous of troubling the Committee, grew out of the details which the Secretary-at War had that night opened in his speech, and as the Honourable General had himself stated, that a more regular occasion would hereafter occur for reviewing the affairs of the Peninsula, and the events of the last campaign, he hoped it would not be considered that it either arose from disrespect to the Honourable General's arguments, or from acquiescence in his sentiments, if he postponed till that occasion should arise, to enter upon a field of discussion too interesting in its nature to be lightly passed over, and too extensive to be mixed with the detailed considerations of the army, more immediately the object of that night's debate.

Lord C. said he should not feel it necessary to trouble the Committee at any length upon the financial part of the Estimates—the outline of the intended services had been explained with great clearness by the noble Lord (Palmerstone,) and the votes proposed seemed to be regulated with all due attention to economy, consistent with the efficiency of the army upon its present high scale in point of numbers.

The Estimate to which he was more particularly desirous of alluding, was that which went to reduce the annual training of the Local Militia from 21 to 14 days.

The share he had in creating this force, the interest he personally felt in its well-being, and the conviction impressed on his mind, that the permanent security of the empire rested on its improvement, and conversation, made him very reluctantly acquiesce in any re-frenchment, which might have a tendency to impair the discipline, and consequently the efficiency of this great system of national defence; but whilst he acknowledged his repugnance to the proposed change in a military point of view, he was ready to admit that there were grave considerations which operated the other way, arising from a due attention to public expence, and the general convenience of the men serving. In this state of things, as a friend of the measure, he thought it best to submit to the change, as an experiment the Local Militia had hitherto found in the country nothing but friends; he thought it would be prudent in its advocates to attempt to strain that string which so happily had been wound up to the present pitch. If we had been obliged to relax in the number of its training days, which originally appeared to him necessary, he had the consolation to observe the institution flourish in a degree far beyond his hopes, from the universal zeal and spirit with which the nation had carried it into execution. All distinctions of party had been lost in the common effort; to that patriotic spirit he was willing to trust for preserving and improving this force, even under the proposed modifications, persuaded that there was but one common feeling in Parliament, and throughout the country, that the efficiency of this institution must be upheld, and that so long as it was effectually sustained, the security of the British Empire was placed beyond the reach of danger.

Lord C. then proceeded to notice the concluding part of the Secretary at War's speech, which related to the recruiting of the army. It was that branch of the subject, on which he had come down, desirous of calling for that information which the Noble Lord had so fully imparted to the House. To those conversant with army details, it must have been obvious, without waiting for the production of returns, that carrying on operations abroad on the scale we now did the waste of the army, even from the common casualties incident to troops in the field, must very considerably exceed the resources of ordinary recruiting. In looking to what it might be necessary to do, he was ready to acquiesce in the principle laid down by the Noble Lord, that adverting to the magnitude of the force which the country now happily possess, the object he aimed at was rather to keep up, than augment the present numbers of the army; it having fallen to his lot officially to propose to Parliament all the onerous measures which had taken place since the year 1805 for levying men.

It was gratifying to him to find, that whilst the painful task had devolved upon him of calling upon the people to submit to these exertions, which, to be effectual to their purpose, must be in their nature burthensome. He had the consolation to learn this night that these efforts had achieved the great object to which they were progressively directed; that the zeal and perseverance of the nation, in cheerfully submitting to these burthens, was rewarded by the powerful army which they now possessed, unexampled before in any period of our history, and which left to Parliament the easier task of hereafter upholding what by past labours had already been created. In illustration of which Lord C. referred to the effective strength of the army, as stated by the Noble Lord, viz. regulars, 211,000, militia 81,000; total rank and file, regulars and militia, 295,000, exclusive of 24,000 artillery. Compare this with the state of the land forces in 1805, viz. regulars 155,000, militia 90,000, artillery 14,000, the Committee will see what has been the result of the measures adopted namely, an increase, after covering the annual waste, of 55,000 regulars, and 10,000 artillery.

Such being the state of the army, and the annual casualties being estimated by the Noble Lord at 23,000 men, (which exceeded, by about 7,000 men, the average of former periods) it remained to be considered how this waste was to be covered—taking the produce of ordinary recruiting at eleven thousand men, and the

foreign recruiting at from 2 to 3000, there remained a deficiency of 10,000 men to be annually provided.—The measure of procuring these men by an annual draft from the militia, as suggested by the Noble Lord, had his entire approbation. It was extending to the British militia a principle which had long been acted upon in Ireland with the greatest advantage, and as far as he could judge as an officer, without any material prejudice either to the discipline or efficiency of the regiments which had been subject to the operation of the draft. The details of the increase would be matter of discussion when the Noble Lord introduced his Bill; he would only now throw out two points for his Lordship's previous consideration:—The first was, the great discouragement which the present regulation, with respect to militia-men's wives and families opposed to volunteering into the line. He was aware that there was considerable difficulty and some delicacy in applying a remedy to this evil; but he wished it to be considered, as men entered into the line upon a variety of terms, differing in their nature and degree of encouragement, whether the allowance now enjoyed by the wife and family of a militia-man might not be continued to them, at the public expence, in the case of the husband agreeing to transfer his services to the line, and whether this would not operate as the best species of bounty.—Without this encouragement he was afraid the measure might not prove productive to the full extent, with it he was confident it would; and if this indulgence, as an extraordinary effort for securing a supply of men, was confined to the men now actually serving in the Militia, no inconvenience could arise to the ordinary recruiting, which might otherwise happen, if it were allowed to operate as a circuitous mode of enlisting into the line.

The second point to which he wished to direct the attention of Ministers was, the system which he had introduced in the Bill of 1809, of endeavouring to protect, as far as possible, the Counties from the heavy inconvenience of a ballot, by enlisting men for the regular militia at a fixed bounty, inferior to that of the line, and that bounty, where the vacancy arose from transfers to the line, falling as a charge upon the public, and not upon the county, provided the county succeeded within a certain time in raising the men. Lord C. wished to see this principle persevered in; he thought it an equitable one; he understood in many counties, where due exertions had been used, it had proved successful in exonerating the counties; and he was impressed with the wisdom as well as importance of connecting with the proposed measure every regulation that could tend to mitigate its pressure; he was aware, from the present numbers of the Militia, as compared with the intended establishment of 72,000 men for the United Kingdom, that a demand upon the Counties was not likely for some time to occur, but the interval he thought ought to be employed in their levying, without expence, or inconvenience to the counties, the men which were to protect them at the end of the second year from the inconveniences of a ballot, for the successful accomplishment of which useful purpose, a new facility would be found in the permanent staff of the local militia, which might be employed in aid of recruiting parties from the militia regiments in raising men in the respective counties.

Having stated his views with respect to the means best calculated to keep up the army, Lord Castlereagh proceeded to call the attention of the Committee to an improvement on the military system of the empire, which he had always deemed of the highest importance, of which he never had for a moment lost sight, and which he had only been induced, when in Government, to delay pressing upon the consideration of Parliament, from the persuasion that its success might have been risked, had it not been prematurely brought forward, entangled with the other arduous military measures, which had in latter years occupied the attention of the Legislature. When he spoke of the military system of the Empire, which he trusted at last had assumed a permanent shape, he did not refer to any particular mode of levying men for military service; and political contest had taken place on this subject, which in its nature did not appear to him capable of being reduced to any immutable principle, but must vary with the occasion, the state of the country at the time, the difficulty or facility of procuring men, and the number required; but what he considered as more immediately constituting our military system, and on which the repeated judgment of Parliament had been pronounced, was—1st. that we should possess a large regular army, adequate to all the various extensive demands of this great Empire abroad, whose best interests, in time of war, even when viewed on defensive principles, was found to consist in the active annoyance of the enemy:—2dly. that we should possess a still more numerous force of local militia, assembled occasionally for purposes of training, but calculated from its numbers at once to protect the country from even the menace of invasion; and 3d, a considerable force of regular militia, competent from their being constantly under arms in time of war, to occupy the garrisons and advanced positions of the Empire in the absence of the regular army, and to afford that defensive cover, under which the local militia, should an invasion be attempted, would have no assemble. (To be continued.)

NOTICE.

ALL Persons having any legal demands against the Estate of the late EBENEZER WHITNEY, Sent. of Miramichi, in the County of Northumberland, deceased, are hereby required to render their accounts duly attested within Twelve Months from the date hereof; and those indebted thereto, are requested to make immediate payment
RICHARD SIMONDS, } Admini-
ANTHONY ROGERS, } strators.
MIRAMICHI, 27th August, 1810.

HEAD-QUARTERS,

Frederickton, New-Brunswick, 3d May, 1811.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

THE Commanding Officers of the several Corps of Militia will direct the four days Spring Drill by Companies at the periods pointed out by the Militia Law, and will apply to the Commanding Officers of the King's Forces nearest their Battalions for Non-Commissioned Officers, or other fit persons, for the purpose of drilling them; if necessary; after which the Inspecting Field Officer will make his Inspection of the different Battalions, commencing with the York County Regiment, and ending with that of Saint John's. Lieut. Colonel GUBBINS will take care to arrange the days of Inspection so as not to interfere with each other.

The Commander in Chief is pleased to dispense with the Inspection of the Northumberland Militia by the Inspecting Field Officer until further orders.

H. W. HAILES,

Adjutant General Militia Forces.

WILLIAM PAGAN, & Co.

Have Received per the Brig Mars, Capt. ROBSON, from LIVERPOOL,

Part of their Assortment of SPRING GOODS.

The remainder they daily expect in the Ship Ocean, from LONDON.

They have also received by the Mars, LIVERPOOL FINE SALT; Crates of EARTHEN WARE well assorted; Stone Butter Pots and Jugs from a half to five gallons, all which they will sell at the most reduced prices.
6th MAY, 1811.

ASSISTANT COMMISSARY GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Saint John, New-Brunswick, 9th May, 1811.

CASH

Wanted for the Public Service in this District.

PERSONS desirous of purchasing BILLS of EXCHANGE drawn on the Right Honourable the Paymasters General, London, thirty days sight, are requested to send sealed proposals to this Office, stating the sum required, and directed to the Subscriber, with the words "Tender for Bills" marked on the letter, when the lowest offer will be attended to.

HENRY GOLDSMITH,
Assistant Commissary General.

OFFICE OF ORDNANCE,

SAINT JOHN, New-Brunswick, 9th May, 1811.

BILLS of EXCHANGE on the Right Honourable and Honourable Board of Ordnance and Paymasters of the Royal Artillery, to be disposed of at the above Office, to the best bidder.

For Sale at Frederickton,

On WEDNESDAY the 24th of JULY next, A HOUSE and LOT in Front-Street, near the Church—Also, Two other Houses in the Town, with a Wind-Mill, and sundry Farms—If not disposed of before July, will be Sold at Public Auction, as the Subscriber expects to leave this Province in September next.

All those indebted to the Subscriber by Bond, Note, or otherwise, are requested to make payment by July next, as they wish to avoid being sued.

S. BRANNAH.

SAINT JOHN, 29th APRIL, 1811.

TO BE SOLD,

THE HOUSE with four LOTS, now occupied by Mr. HAZEN, in the front street of Frederickton—Possession can be given immediately.

The Premises comprise ample well finished Rooms, Cellarage, Gardens and Stables, particularly convenient for a large family, or for any kind of business, and may be viewed by persons desirous of purchasing.

The Town Lots fronting on the back street will be Sold separately if required—Easy terms may be had for the whole upon good security.

Frederickton, 18th April, 1811.

RUM, SUGAR and COFFEE.

Just Received by the Subscriber, and for Sale on reasonable terms for Cash or at a short credit,
50 Hhds. SUGAR excellent quality,
40 Puncheons RUM,
50 Barrels COFFEE.

ANDREW CROOKSHANK.

Saint John, March 30, 1811.

JUST RECEIVED

By the Schooner HERCULES, Capt. WOODWORTH from JAMAICA, and for Sale by the Subscriber,

on liberal terms for good payment,
JAMAICA SPIRITS; BROWN SUGAR;
SHRUB; COFFEE; and INDIGO.

DAVID HATFIELD.

Saint John, 29th, April, 1811.

THE SUBSCRIBER

DESIRES all Persons who have been indebted to him more than Six Months, to call and settle their Accounts without further delay.

JOHN ROBINSON.

Saint John, 29th April, 1811.

To be Let, Leased or Sold,

THE WATER LOT, adjoining the one occupied at present by Timothy Parker, in Prince William-Street, 25 feet front and rear by about 220 (Grant being to low Water mark)—Terms moderate—Apply to WILLIAM DONALD,
24th September, 1810.