

THE MILITIA FORCE.

Sir Frederick Borden Wants to Provide Homes for all Corps.

VOTE PASSED TO BUILD AN ARMORY IN FREDERICTON.

Mr. Sifton Back in Good Health.

Ottawa, Feb. 24.—On a vote of \$50,000 for small armories the minister of public works explained the amount was for armor and Brandon. The three would cost about \$30,000.

Mr. Foster said he objected to the votes passing in a lump and wanted the policy of the minister of militia as to armory construction.

Sir Frederick Borden said he was on record as to his policy. He aimed to have some kind of a home for all the military units of Canada. These homes could not be erected at once. He proposed to take expert advice as to where these buildings should be first put up and to have his officers consult with the officers of the public works department as to the expense.

He had found that unfortunately these armories had not been erected as cheaply as he hoped they would.

Hon. George E. Foster, who was leading the opposition, read the ministers of public works and of militia a lecture on economy. He said he had no doubt the minister of militia had the usual experience of the minister of public works of being compelled, through political exigency, of spending eight or ten thousand dollars for a barrack to provide a home for a corps for which he would not pay more than a couple of thousand dollars if he erected it as a business proposition.

Mr. Foster said he favored the militia buildings. Canada needed more of them, but he said he had been a little alarmed last night when he saw votes for from \$50,000 to \$80,000 for armories going up through Canada was a growing country. It had recently created two sister provinces. There were great public works needed. The services had to be extended and the further this reached out the more expensive it became. He warned the government that they had to provide some sort of a reasonable limit on the cost of armories, or they would find themselves involved in very large expense.

Sir Frederick Borden said that the housing of the Canadian militia would be a big and expensive undertaking. He proposed giving every corps in Canada, rural as well as urban, some sort of a home. The heavy expenditure on armories consisting of many thousands of dollars, was only incurred in such great centres as Montreal and Toronto, where there were many corps and many men.

Sir Frederick said the rural corps should have homes, places for the storing of their arms and accoutrements, and meeting places for improvement in military knowledge. In Canada there were altogether about 1,000 separate corps, and of this number six or seven hundred were rural corps. To provide armories for all would be no small task. Sir Frederick intimated that it would be done gradually and he thought suitable buildings could be erected for from \$2,500 to \$10,000 each.

Hon. Mr. Paterson, minister of customs gave a sessional dinner in the senate restaurant this evening. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was present. In reply to a toast of his health, he said that he was never in better health in his life than at present.

Hon. Clifton Sifton returned this evening from the south, where he was for the benefit of his health. When the minister of the interior entered the commons at the evening session he was received with applause. He is greatly improved in health and ready to take hold of his parliamentary duties.

HALIFAX AND ESQUIMAULT.

The Two Garrisons to be Filled with Canadian Soldiers.

Ottawa, Feb. 23.—The withdrawal of the imperial troops from the two Canadian fortresses, Halifax and Esquimault, is a part of the new war office programme of concentration. By the plan announced by Mr. Foster some time ago there are abolished or brought home eleven battalions, now stationed in the colonies. The same programme reduces the numerical strength of twenty-six other battalions from 988 to 863 each. The effect is to reduce the infantry in the colonies and Egypt from 36,000 to 22,438. Corresponding to this reduction in the infantry there will be a reduction of 4,500 men in the artillery and other arms, making a total saving of 18,000 men in the colonial garrisons.

When Canadians march in to Halifax and Esquimault, twenty-two or twenty-three hundred British infantry, artillery, engineers and men of other arms of service can be sent home.

There are about four hundred in all

arms and ranks at Esquimault now. However, when the fortifications in the course of erection are completed it will take five hundred men to serve the guns which guard the Pacific naval base. It is only a year or so since Canada acquired about one hundred acres of land at Esquimault as a seat for the erection of forts, barracks and store houses. Those structures are now in the hands of the contractors.

Halifax is now garrisoned by the 5th Royal Garrison Regiment, comprised of old soldiers. It has a strength of 920 officers and men and is quartered in the Wellington barracks. There are detachments performing guard duties over various imperial properties in Halifax and a detachment of the same regiment is at the Citadel performing signal service.

The Royal Artillery at Halifax number 550 men. They man the guns at Point Pleasant, the Citadel and the island forts in the harbor.

The Royal Engineers number 250. They are engaged in fort building and perfecting submarine mining and are quartered in the barracks.

The total imperial force at Halifax is brought up to 1,800 men by the army pay and service corps. At present all arms of the service are under the command of Sir Charles Parsons. Outside of pay it is estimated the cost of maintaining the garrison is £20,000 a year.

Canadian infantry garrisoned the Halifax defences for two years during and after the South African war. It was predicted then that they should be the permanent garrison for all time to come. Though they have been withdrawn and replaced by royal troops the prophecy is to come true. The first of July will see the maple leaf on the uniforms at Halifax.

OPPOSITION IN HALIFAX.

Halifax, Feb. 23.—So far as can be learned from the imperial authorities here about the transfer of the defences of Halifax to the Dominion government, nothing has reached them from official sources. The withdrawal of British troops from this garrison meets with the strong disapproval of the people of Halifax. Halifax has been an imperial garrison station from its very settlement. The military element has helped to mould its institutions and shape its growth for over one hundred and fifty years. The sudden announcement of the withdrawal of the garrison came as a shock to citizens generally. They are decidedly opposed to having a permanent Canadian force established in this old garrison town. A previous experience on these lines was not very satisfactory, and many complaints were made against the provisional battalion stationed here during the Boer war. Ever since Halifax has been a town it has been in touch with famous officers and regiments of the British army. The army has influenced its society, and no doubt, it has benefited from the contact with the old world culture that the military element has introduced. For sentimental as well as social reasons the people of Halifax with very few exceptions, are opposed to handing over the defences to the militia department of Canada.

LAST SAD TRIBUTE.

Remains of the Late Hanford McLean Laid to Rest at Marysville.

The funeral of the late Hanford McLean, whose sad death has been previously recorded in these columns, took place at Marysville this afternoon. Rev. R. S. Crisp conducted the services and the body was interred in the Methodist burying ground. The esteem in which the young man was held was clearly attested by the large number in attendance, and the expressions of sympathy for the bereaved family were indeed heartfelt. The floral tributes could scarcely be surpassed, and comprised the following:

Gates ajar, yellow and white roses, red carnations and white lilies, from deceased's family; flat bouquet, Mrs. F. S. Williams; pillow of pink roses and lilies, neighbors; bouquet, Mayor and Mrs. Gibson; bouquet, Mr. and Mrs. John Lawson and family of Fredericton; flat bouquet, Mrs. E. Cadwallader; bouquet, Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Starkey; wreath of red and cream roses and carnations, the Trojan Hockey team; crest, office staff of the cotton mill; bouquet, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Hulme, Mrs. John Hulme and Eddie Hulme; wreath, Crescent and Victoria Hockey teams; another wreath from the Victorias; flat bouquet, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Merritt.

The pall-bearers were the following members of the Crescent and Victoria hockey teams:—Benj. Fullerton, Wm. Cain, Fred Smith, John Gibson, Rainsford Arnold, and Wayne Hovey. Other local hockey players together with the members of the Woodstock team who are in town today, walked in a body in the procession. Undertaker George W. Adams had charge of the funeral arrangements.

AT THE OPERA HOUSE.

H. Price Webber's Boston Comedy gave a production of the great drama, Woman's Life, at the opera house last evening. The audience was a large one, and judging by the many manifestations of approval thoroughly enjoyed the play. Mr. Webber was in good form, and his catchy local hits greatly pleased the audience. The company is one of the oldest and best that visits the eastern provinces, and is always sure of a cordial welcome in Fredericton.

TROJANS BEATEN AGAIN.

Neptunes of St. John Defeated Fredericton Men 2 to 1.

In the senior league hockey match in the Queen's Rink at St. John last night, the Neptunes were victorious over the Trojans of Fredericton, 2 to 1. The contest was at times very lively and interesting. The visitors worked hard for a victory and the teams were evenly matched.

The first half was featured by some fast work, but many off side plays. Ed. Mooney was the referee and his whistle was in frequent use. Eight minutes after play had started, McMiniman shot the only goal the visitors got in the game, and although the play was often in the St. John territory, the puck never again entered the Neptune net. The first half finished with the home team having failed to score.

It was just one and a half minutes after the teams faced off in the second half that Blizzard shot number one for the Neptunes, and tied the score. The play in this half was much faster than the first half, and, if anything, rougher. It was in seventeen minutes that Petrie, after a good run, secured a chance and shot the second and winning goal for the Neptunes.

The game was delayed about ten minutes while Petrie was having an injury to his chin dressed, and a few players were laid off for a time for foul play.

The Mohawks will try conclusions with the Trojans tonight.

Mr. A. M. MacGillivray of Antigonish, N.S., is stopping at the Queen today. He will join the G. T. P. survey.

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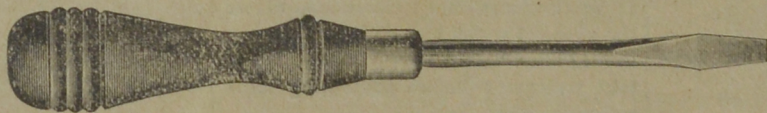
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