

REPLACING THE GARRISON.

Correspondence With Imperial Authorities.

RED TAPE IN EVIDENCE.—ARMY COUNCIL DECLINES TO LET CANADA PAY TROOPS.

Sir Frederick Borden Objects to Handing Over Money for the Purpose to the Imperial Authorities.

Ottawa, July 7.—Papers relating to the assumption by Canada of the maintenance of the fortifications at Halifax and Esquimaux were presented to Parliament by Sir Frederick Borden tonight. The papers begin with a report of the Privy Council, approved by his Excellency on January 20 last, which recalls the fact that at the colonial conference of 1902 the Canadian Ministers stated the willingness of the Canadian Government to assume the responsibility of garrisoning Halifax and Esquimaux. They now deem it expedient to renew this offer in a more formal and precise manner. In the event of the suggestion being favorably entertained by the Imperial authorities and the sanction of the Canadian Parliament being obtained, the Government would proceed with the preparations to assume the whole of the responsibility for garrisoning Halifax and Esquimaux. The report concludes: "In making this offer, your Excellency's advisers desire to renew the expression of their wish and intention to avail themselves in all military matters of the advice and experience of Imperial officers, so far as may be consistent with the principle of local self-government, which has proved so beneficial not only to the colonies but to the whole empire."

MR. LYTTELTON'S REPLY.

Hon. Mr. Lyttelton replied on the 8th of February: "His Majesty's Government highly appreciated and gratefully accepted the patriotic offer of your Ministers to take over the defence of Halifax and Esquimaux. His Majesty's Government recognize that it would be difficult for the Canadian Government to replace the troops for some time, and suggest for the consideration of your Government that arrangements might be made for retaining Imperial troops for the present, Canada undertaking to defray the cost, which is about £200,000 per annum, exclusive of contributions already made by the Dominion Government in respect to Esquimaux. The payments by Canada to be reduced in proportion as the Dominion Government is able to replace the Imperial troops by Canadian troops. To enable the estimates for the coming year to be framed it is essential that this arrangement should come into force on April 1st, and as recruiting for the garrison regiment will be stopped, the Dominion Government should endeavor to meet the diminution of that battalion by Canadian troops as early as possible."

SIR F. BORDEN'S RECOMMENDATION.

Mr. Lyttelton's cable was acknowledged in a report to the Council by Sir Frederick Borden, dated February 15, in which he expressed the opinion that, while the offer of the Imperial troops should be cordially accepted, it was for many reasons preferable that their cost of maintenance should be defrayed directly by Canada, and under the responsibility of the Ottawa Government, rather than that a lump sum should be paid over to the War Office and that office be made responsible for maintaining the troops—a course which would appear to be constitutionally open to objection. Sir Frederick strongly recommended that July 1st, as the beginning of the next Canadian financial year, be fixed as the date on which Canada would assume the responsibility. The Minister also recommended that the garrison of Halifax and Esquimaux be allowed to remain until they could be replaced by Canadian troops. Canada would pay, feed, clothe and equip these troops at exactly the same rates and in the same manner as they are now paid and maintained by the War Office, and in proportion as purely Canadian permanent troops were raised and trained to take the place of the Imperial troops the latter would be withdrawn, in accordance with mutual arrangements. On July 1, 1905, the command should be handed over by the present officers commanding the Imperial troops to the commanding officers of the Dominion forces, told off for that purpose, and the Imperial commanding officers and headquarters staffs should be relieved of their duties. Sir Frederick proposed that the War Office be asked to agree to sell Canada at vocabulary prices all ammunition, stores and equipment which Canada might require to purchase for the Imperial troops who remained. He further suggested that Sir Charles Parsons, commander of the Imperial troops at Halifax, consult at Ottawa with the Military Council from time to time as to questions of detail which might arise; also that officers of the Canadian militia appointed to commands on the staff at Halifax or Esquimaux, should be gazetted temporarily to commissions in the Imperial army in order that they might be legally entitled to exercise command of the Imperial troops. Finally, the Minister announced that the present permanent force of Canada would be rapidly recruited to meet the new demands upon it, but an amendment

Views of the Army Council.

On April 27 Mr. Lyttelton forwarded a copy of a letter from the War Office, in which certain arrangements were proposed by the Army Council in regard to the period during which the Imperial troops would remain as part of the garrisons. Those arrangements Mr. Lyttelton hoped the Canadian Ministers would see their way to accept. The letter of the War Office, embodying the views of the Army Council accepted July 1 as the date of assumption of the fortifications, but regret was expressed that legal and constitutional considerations made it impossible to transfer the Imperial troops while they remained as part of the garrisons to the direct payment and administration of the colonial authorities, as suggested. The Army Council did not overlook the fact that the payment of a lump sum to the War Office for maintaining the troops was constitutionally open to objection, as suggested by the Canadian Government, but in view of the fact that half of the cost of the Esquimaux garrison had been paid by Canada for some years past, they hoped that the constitutional objections to increasing such contribution temporarily to cover the whole cost might not be found insuperable. The Council were willing, when the British troops were withdrawn, to sell any articles of stores which the Canadian authorities might desire to retain. There was no objection to the Imperial troops remaining at Halifax and Esquimaux until they could be replaced by Canadian troops. But as the Royal Garrison Regiment could not be kept up to establishment, it would be necessary that the infantry of the Halifax garrison should be replaced by Canadian troops as early as possible. The Council could not concur in the suggestion that the commandant of the Imperial troops should hand over his command to the commanding officer of the Dominion until the relative position of the Imperial and permanent officers of the Canadian militia had been more definitely settled, a question which was under consideration of the Council. The Council had no objection to the staff and other officers remaining for such period as might be agreed upon, nor to General Parsons proceeding to Ottawa occasionally for purposes of consultation.

TRANSFERS FROM IMPERIAL FORCES.

In a report to the Council of May 13 Sir Frederick Borden replied to the points raised by the communication of the War Office. He maintained that objections previously urged to the course proposed by the Army Council—the payment by Canada to the War Office of the sum dispensed by it for maintenance of the Imperial troops and their garrisons—still retained their force. The offer of the War Office to produce for Canada detailed statements in support of such expenditure did not appear to remove these objections. To meet the difficulties referred to by the Army Council, however, the following recommendations were submitted: That the Army Council be asked to allow officers and men of the Imperial forces at Halifax and Esquimaux to be transferred to the Canadian permanent force should they be willing to accept such transfer. That if this was accepted Canada would take over the entire control of the Halifax defences and garrison on July 1, relieving all the Imperial troops by her own permanent troops, including those transferred. That Canada should agree to pay to the War Office the whole cost of maintenance of Esquimaux defences and garrison, instead of only one-half the cost, as at present, until she could relieve the whole of the garrison similarly to that of Halifax not later than July 1, 1906. That the Army Council allow a small number of officers of all branches of the service to be seconded in the Imperial army for one, two or three years, as may be agreed upon, for temporary service with Canadian forces. This number was estimated at not exceeding the following: Staff 3; Royal Artillery staff and Royal Artillery, 8; Royal Engineers staff and Royal Engineers, 6; infantry, 2; services and departments, 8.

Having been notified of the appointment of Col. Drury to command at Halifax, the Colonial Secretary cabled that Sir Charles Parsons be notified as soon as his services were no longer required, so that he might be permitted to return to Great Britain.

TIME NOT YET SET.

The Canadian Government next sought to ascertain when the Royal Garrison Regiment would be withdrawn from Halifax. To this, however, no reply was received, and on June 23rd the Governor-General cabled the Colonial Secretary as follows:—



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Referring to your telegram of February 8th, Halifax garrison, recruiting of Canadian permanent force to relieve Royal Garrison Regiment has gone on until now. Its accommodation in existing barracks is attended by serious inconvenience. Under the circumstances the Minister of Militia asks when the Royal Garrison Regiment may be expected to be withdrawn, and its place taken by the Royal Canadian Regiment.

FAMOUS BANK ROBBER IS FREE

Escaped From a French Penal Colony.

New York, July 8.—Edward Guerin, for whom police and secret service detectives have been searching since May 1, is said by the World to be in New York city. Guerin was serving a life sentence in the French penal colony on Devil's Island. He had been sentenced in Paris in 1901 for robbing the American Express Company there of \$6,000. As he had robbed the Bank of Lyons, France, ten years before, of \$50,000, the French government gave him the maximum penalty, which was life.

In prison he met Tom O'Brien, an American murderer, and the two planned the escape. The chance came to O'Brien, but he failed, and died later with Guerin at his side. In 1904 Guerin became ill and was transferred to the mainland, French Guiana. On May 1 Guerin was outside the lines, and on his way through the swamps provided with food and armed. The fugitive was captured and robbed by Indians before he got to Dutch Guiana, 200 miles north. The Indians left him for dead on the outskirts of Paramaribo, in Dutch Guiana. Here he was found by two Americans, who fed and clothed him, and at Georgetown, in British Guiana, he was treated by a physician until he was able to sail under the name of James Harrison for New York.

Seven weeks ago Guerin, reduced to a skeleton, arrived in New York. At the same time the state department was apprised of Guerin's escape, and an agent was sent to New York to find him, but failed to locate him.

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"I had been troubled with indigestion and general stomach disorders for nearly a year. I had a soreness in my stomach and was unable to digest my food. I dieted and doctored without success; but Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound brought me permanent relief. I used three bottles and it cured me of my stomach trouble and built up my general health. I now enjoy a splendid appetite, can eat all kinds of food, have no trouble with indigestion, and know that I owe it all to Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound."

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That Consumers who take out permits before the first of July and January in each year, will be allowed a rebate equal to the increase.

It is desirable that you take out permits at once, as if postponed until the last of the month, it will be impossible then to attend to all.

ALEX. BURCHILL,

Superintendent

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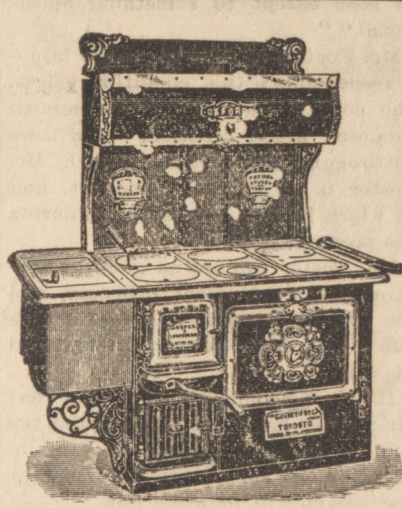
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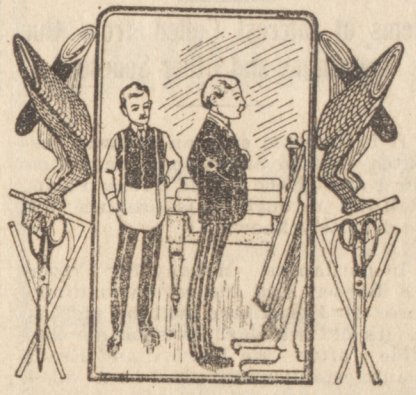
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