

from a fiscal and commercial point of view, that non-resident representatives of extra-Canadian houses should be called upon to contribute their share to the public revenue. It may be added, however, that some changes in the act have been made during the session of the Legislature of the current year which are meant to lighten the tax upon commercial travellers.

The amended act respecting the Militia and Defence of Canada was a subject of consideration with the Imperial authorities early in the year with reference to section 4 of the act, in which the Command in Chief is declared to continue and be vested in the King and exercisable by His Majesty or by the Governor General as his representative. This reference drew attention to the fact that the letters patent and commission constituting the appointment of the Governor General had by oversight omitted to confer upon him the style and office of Commander in Chief, and steps were taken to rectify the omission. This was done under amended letters patent dated 15th June, constituting the office of Governor General and Commander in Chief of the Dominion in substitution for those of the 5th of October, 1878, which constituted the office of Governor General.

In the speech with which the Governor General closed the 1905 session of Parliament he said: "The addition to the number of the permanent force which you have authorized will enable my Government to relieve the taxpayers of the United Kingdom from the burden of keeping up the garrisons of Esquimalt and Halifax." This was the most important event of the year in the Dominion from a military point of view, and as a first result of it the Government took over from the king's regular troops the responsibility for the maintenance of the Imperial fortress at Halifax. Esquimalt will be taken over during the present year, and so a matter which has been a subject of consideration and discussion for half a century will be finally settled by the withdrawal from Canada of the last British soldier and the occupation of the two fortresses fully equipped in every respect by Canadian officers and men.

Reorganization of the system of administration of the militia outside the headquarters office was effected during the year, as a consequence of the establishment of the Militia Council and the abolition of the office of General Officer Commanding. The