

members of a cadet corps in connection with a school. It gives the boys a fine training and many of them become excellent militia officers in after life. As far as the cadet corps at home is concerned, the instructor there is a most capable man and it is a very great satisfaction not only to the city but to the surrounding country to observe the proficiency which these cadets display in drill. These boys are quite capable of going to camp if they are not mixed up with the regular militia. The Boy Scouts in our section of the country go off to camp with their instructor. He takes charge and generally the Y.M.C.A. sends somebody who assists him. If that policy is followed out I do not see what harm can come to these boys. I would not like to see militarism, or the expense of the militia increased in this country. I can tell the minister that most of the people are opposed to the militia expenditure increasing. I believe in bringing the militia into a condition of systematic service and I would support the minister in any movement he makes towards that end. At the same time I would advise him very strongly to keep a watchful eye on the expenditure. No matter what he may have to do let him keep the expenditure down. I see that the amount proposed to be expended for the training of the cadet corps is \$130,000. This is not to provide pay for the individuals, but it is simply to pay their expenses, which is nothing but right. If camps are carefully surrounded with safeguards, if liquor of all kinds is kept out of them and if they are under the care of the instructors of the cadets who know the individuals, it appears to me that much good may come out of them. An important point in the training of a boy is to know something of his disposition and if this movement is watched carefully and not allowed to become too closely associated with militarism it ought to serve a good purpose.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). The line as laid down by my hon. friend from Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt) is exactly the line that I purpose pursuing. Where there is a cadet corps, if there is any instructor, it may be one of the boys themselves, or it may be one of their teachers, that officer is going to be brought out if we can get him. Although there has been no attempt to specially organize it yet we have heard of hundreds and thousands of teachers and instructors of the very character that my hon. friend speaks of who would be ready to take part in these camps. I heartily agree with my hon. friend when he says that the only way to manage these boys is to trust them. Take a military camp—if they are positively forbidden in blood and thunder terms to use liquor with all sorts of penalties to be imposed upon them if they vio-

Mr. NESBITT.

late the law, the chances are that the spirit that is dominant in humanity will find vent and it simply comes down to this that the more you attempt to repress them the more liable they are to break out. I could point to camps where men have been informed that liquor could be obtained in the town adjoining, but their attention was drawn to the fact that it could not be conceived to be possible that any young gentleman wearing the uniform of a British soldier and coming out of a decent home would be found hanging around such a place as a saloon. I could point to a camp where, out of 3,000 or 3,500 men only two were found to be drunk during the twelve days.

Mr. NESBITT. That largely depends on the officers in immediate touch with the men.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Certainly. My hon. friend spoke also of the boy scouts going to camp. If those camps can be carried out successfully this plan can also be carried out without any trouble. As to cutting down expenses, I might explain that we will drill over 100,000 men and boys. If my hon. friend will notice the militia statement, he will see that the expenses have been pretty well cut down, and I can assure the committee that the country will get a dollar's worth for every dollar that is voted, so long as I have any responsibility in connection with this matter. I might point out to my hon. friend that if we go on with these cadet camps, in three or four years we will have a large number of young men of from 14 to 16 years of age, who will be available for the militia. It should not be forgotten that the battle of Alma was won by boys under 17 years of age, that there were many boys in the squares at Waterloo, that Wolfe was a young man when he captured Quebec, and that Washington was a young man when he led the army across the Alleghennies. So that, it is evident that a man does not have to be very old, in order to make a good soldier. Those who are trained young, will learn quickly, and they will keep hold of what they have learned. These boys, in three or four years, will be able to take their places in the ranks of the militia. With these camp areas, the boys, in place of going out for a Thanksgiving holiday, would be only too glad, having their expenses paid, to go out for four or five days and manoeuvre over an area of ten or twelve square miles. In that way, they would learn more in a day than they would in six or eight weeks of hay-foot, straw-foot drill in the ordinary militia camp. My hon. friend from Oxford, said that he would endorse the proposal that these men should not have any connection with the militia. I propose to introduce a Bill to-morrow to prevent that very thing. At the present