

organization and maintenance of an adequate defensive force, but on the other hand, Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition has been too much engrossed with the seemingly congenial occupation of investigating the interior economy of the Rideau Hall scullery to draw the attention of the party in power to the duty of the government towards the militia. Neither party in the present House has manifested even a reasonable interest in the militia. If members of the force do their duty as citizens in the approaching elections the next parliament on both sides of the Speaker should be pledged to the militia.

It is with more than ordinary pleasure that militiamen will note the new minister's remarks to the Montreal deputation as to his determination to economize rather in the direction of the permanent corps than of the active militia. It is now practically the universal opinion that the permanent force absorbs altogether too large a proportion of the militia vote. Relatively the country gets in the permanent corps very poor value for its money, the General Officer to the contrary, notwithstanding.

Major General Herbert's great interest in the permanent force is well-known and easily understood. He is a typical Guard's officer, and would sooner have a thousand thoroughly equipped and faultlessly drilled regulars than forty thousand militia. The General in his annual report draws from the China-Japanese war the lesson that "a comparatively small, but highly organized force can overcome the greatest difficulties and lay at its feet an empire hitherto regarded as unassailable." It would be a mighty small empire, however, that the one thousand men of Canada's permanent force could lay at its feet. A force of a thousand men we maintain is utterly useless as a defensive organization, although General Herbert says that the permanent corps constitute a valuable force. A permanent force to be of any practical military value as such in Canada should consist of ten thousand men at least, and the public does not feel in the humor to indulge in the luxury of a standing army of its own just yet, and

never will at the price we have to pay for the permanent corps. The country could do worse than spend some money in maintaining an effective standing army in Canada, but considerations both of efficiency and economy would demand that this force should consist of Imperial regiments serving here under conditions similar to those existing in India to-day.

General Herbert gives an altogether unduly prominent place in his report to his pet thousand, and goes decidedly out of his way to make a comparison of the expenditures on permanent corps and active militia. He says:—

"In view of incorrect statements which have been made, with a certain appearance of authoritative importance as to the cost to the country of the permanent force, as compared with that of the active militia, it is my duty to draw your attention to the following facts:—As shown by the details of the estimates, submitted to Parliament for the past year, 1895-6, a sum of \$223,000 represents the emoluments of the permanent force, in full of all pay and allowances, while the appropriations, which pass direct into the pockets of the active militia, in the form of pay and allowances for the same period amount to \$313,800."

This statement is worded in such an ingenious way that the General has probably misled even himself. To a person not conversant with the facts it would appear that the sum mentioned, \$223,000, represented the total cost of the permanent corps. But "Pay and Allowances" is but a small item in the cost, as the following statement from the Auditor-General's report will show:—

PERMANENT FORCE.	
Pay and allowances.....	\$215,032.95
Allowance to officers' mess and soldier's libraries.....	1,769.00
Necessaries.....	19,999.85
Rations.....	112,172.50
Furniture and utensils.....	17,006.06
Shoing, postage, etc.....	8,569.91
Remounts.....	6,684.20
Expenses of officers to England.....	2,132.37
Officers uniform Royal Canadian Dragoons.....	750.00
Martini-Metford Rifles.....	16,156.35
Clothing.....	5,000.00
Royal Marine Artillery, 3 months	25,359.46
Royal Canadian Artillery Institute, Quebec.....	500.00
	<u>\$476,414.65</u>
Pay of attached at schools.....	28,171.71
Transport to schools.....	18,356.43
	<u>\$72,664.85</u>
ACTIVE MILITIA.	
Drill pay, city and rural corps.....	139,529.21
Pay of staff at camps.....	19.59
Rations, forage, fuel and light at camps.....	33,825.51
Transport attending camps.....	58,239.31
	<u>\$231,613.56</u>

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Even this statement does not give the whole of the case. There are many items charged to the active militia that properly belong

to the permanent corps. For instance, part of the cost of "Headquarters Staff" and "Militia Department" should be apportioned to the permanent corps. The officers commanding the regimental depots receive five dollars per day pay and one dollar and twenty-five cents "Command pay." The five dollars is charged to the active militia and but a dollar and a quarter to the permanent corps. It would also be interesting to know whether the transport expenses of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Infantry to Levis and return home were charged to the permanent corps or to the active militia.

No mention is made in the General's report of the field day at High Park Toronto, at which he was present; but the General makes a separate report on the Levis camp.

The militia deputations to Ottawa with the aid of political influence succeeded in getting drill pay for the militia for this year. But there is nothing in the estimates for 1895-6 so that there will likely be the same trouble next spring.

The Royal Canadian Artillery Institute, Quebec, received \$500 last year from the militia grant with free quarters, fuel, light and caretaker. This institute is for the R. C. Artillery officers, Quebec. The Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, receive \$100 a year, publishes its military lectures and disseminates valuable information amongst Militia Officers. What does the Quebec Institute do? Where are its lectures?

If militiamen as a whole were as fully alive to the interests of the whole force as are the officers of the Dominion Rifle Association to matters affecting their specialty, the militia would be in a better position to-day than it is. Riflemen must note with pleasure that the D.R.A. has already taken time by the forelock and secured 100,000 rounds of 1893 ammunition for the annual meeting.

By the way, it will be as well for men attending the D.R.A. this year to remember that those camping out on the ranges will have to pay a dollar as a pitching fee for a bell tent and five dollars for a marquee.