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**M**ILITIA estimates are always open to attack. It is the easiest thing in the world for those who want to find fault, to say that they are too large or too small; that they are on the one hand calculated to encourage the spirit of militarism, or on the other, too small to be of any practical use. It is not unusual for them to be attacked on both grounds at once and even by the same critic. Colonel Hughes' estimates are, of course, no exception to the rule. The best item in them is the provision of \$400,000 for additional military training, and being the best, naturally came in for the most and least intelligent criticism. The fact that the cadet system is a new idea in Canada was also a sad grievance to people who are naturally suspicious of new ideas, because they have never developed any of their own. Dr. Clark, of Red Deer, objected to the cadet movement and modestly admitted that it was doubtless the fault of his early training. He was trained to save life. It might be explained to the doctor that most of the surgeons in the British Army have been trained to save life also; but we have never heard of their objecting to the Army estimates on that account. The argument has absolutely no bearing that would not apply with equal force against having a Department of Militia and Defence at all. The strongest argument in favour of the cadet system is that whether the majority of the cadets graduate into the ranks of the active Militia or not, they will be all the better men for their cadet training. If Canada is not to depend wholly and entirely upon Great Britain for its defence, which is unthinkable, it will have to depend upon its citizen soldiers. Under these circumstances, the best way to train young Canada to save Canadian lives is to teach as many cadets as possible to shoot straight. The cadet who gets training for a period every year in the use of the rifle will not lose his interest in the rifle for the rest of the year. The question for practical commonsense people is whether Canada shall send untrained troops—mere food for powder—to repel invaders, or whether it shall send citizen soldiers trained from boyhood in military habits and able to handle their rifles effectively. If trouble comes, Colonel Hughes' system will save more lives than all the talk ever stuffed into Hansard about training for the saving of life. Doctors have their uses in war, in fact, they are indispensable, but an army composed entirely of unarmed doctors, would not be apt to strike terror into the enemy.

**MINIMUM WAGE BILL.** THE unholy alliance of discordant elements, which has kept the Asquith Government in office rather than in power, threatens to go all to pieces, as the result of the Government's failure to grapple manfully with the situation created by the miners' strike. When the Berlin Conference was being held, Punch had a cartoon representing Disraeli pausing as he entered the council chamber to ask, "What is French for compromise?" The present British Government is always asking, "What is English, Scotch, Irish, Welsh or Socialistic for compromise?" It has endeavoured to settle the strike by providing a minimum wage schedule, of which nobody is obliged by penal clauses to take the slightest notice. When a late Speaker of the House of Commons once threatened to name an honourable member, he was asked, what would be the consequences, if he carried out his awful threat. "The Lord only knows" he replied tragically. Premier Asquith's own description of the Bill shows its harmlessness, which is only equalled by its uselessness. He said that the conclusion to which the Government had come, and with which sixty-five per cent. of the coal owners agreed, was that having regard to the unique conditions of the mining industry there ought to be a minimum reasonable wage on the one hand, and on the other hand, adequate safeguards to protect the owners against slackness and deficiency of output. They must have the machinery, intelligent, competent and impartial, to settle both the amount of the minimum wage and the extent of the safeguards. The bill, he added, was a temporary measure continuing in force for three years, the minimum wage to be retrospective. If and when the men returned to work they shall be paid from the day of their return at a rate to be subsequently fixed by the district board. The district boards would draw up regulations and conditions for the regularity and efficiency of work, and workmen who failed to comply therewith would not be entitled to the minimum wage. The boards would settle the general minimum wage and the general district rules, namely, the conditions for efficiency and regularity.

The bill, he said, contained no penal provisions upon one side or the other. The employer was liable to pay an underground workman a wage not less than the wage fixed by the district boards, but the mine owner was not compelled to open his coal mine, nor did the bill compel the workman to descend into a pit. It