

with the cadet system. The Strathcona trustees work altogether with the schools. The two are entirely distinct.

Mr. KAY. The minister said a few moments ago that the infantry men had objected to the four days additional training.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Some of them.

Mr. KAY. May I ask if the cavalry men were anxious for the four days additional?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). Most of the infantry reports say they are in favour of 16 days; so are the officers of the cavalry association. We have not heard from the rank and file yet.

Mr. KAY. It appears to me that this four days additional will mean a large decrease in the number of men who are willing to go out and be trained, it will also mean a great difficulty in getting officers. An officer's holidays, if he is in business, are only about two weeks. At present he is giving all his holidays to the militia service, and I do not think it will be possible for him to give to that service any more than the two weeks he is now given as holidays. As to the rank and file, they are drawn from among the farmers' sons. They are assembled between the 15th and the end of June, when work is comparatively slack. I do not think it will be possible to get them to give up three weeks of their time, because haying usually commences about that time.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). The views of the hon. gentleman are my own views. In the old time I filled in 16 days in camp. But my predecessor and the officers of the force have been petitioning for this, the Cavalry Association and the Artillery Association have asked for it, and it was all cut and dried, I believe, nearly a year ago, that this should be done. I did not wish to step in and, with a wave of the hand, to cancel the arrangement, and run counter to the wishes of the department. Therefore, I let it go so far as the cavalry and artillery are concerned, because they seemed to want it. We will try it for one year. But it is not too late to change it yet.

Mr. CLARK (Red Deer). Before this item passes, I would like to put myself on record as being in sympathy with the words of apprehension which have been spoken by the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Beland). I am afraid, however, that anything I may say on this question will fall on unsympathetic ears in the person of my hon. friend the Minister of Militia (Mr. Hughes). Of course, it is natural that I should view things a little differently from him on this question, because, as he

has pointed out, in a measure truthfully, an early training has a great deal to do with one's future thinking and attitude upon public questions. I spent a great many years at the university learning to save life, if possible; my hon. friend's profession, when it is practised, has a contrary effect. Now, I am not so sure but that when men are in an emergency they would just about as soon go to a doctor as to my hon. friend. It is one of the peculiarities of human life, one of the mysteries of the world, that when people go out and kill one another, they take means for restoring them in case they have not performed the operation successfully which they undertook when they went out to the field of battle. That is one of the peculiarities of the world, which I think is leading a large portion of the inhabitants of this country to look upon it with a little less enthusiasm than burns in the martial bosom of my hon. friend. I am not sure that the public of Canada do not sympathize more with me upon that question than with my hon. friend. In regard to these cadet corps, I am not sure that my hon. friend is historically correct. He knows much more about military matters than I do, and I think he challenged the House to produce cases of men becoming good soldiers who had not been trained in their youth. If he deigns to look at this point again, I would like him to tell me where Cromwell's army learned their soldiering. They were not trained soldiers, they had to meet trained soldiers, and in the end they succeeded better than the regularly trained men of the day. In Canada we have a number of men in the western provinces who use their guns, not in shooting one another, but who are good marksmen; and I am certain that without any cadet training, or without going into camps, numbers of these men, if occasion arose, would give a splendid account of themselves although they have not undergone this regular drill. There are cases in history of volunteers having proved better than regularly trained men. I think my hon. friend does not carry me on that point.

We have a great deal to do in this great country with a very small population. I view with apprehension the extreme enthusiasm of my hon. friend. His enthusiasm is leading to some good work in this way that he is devoting himself, with that tremendous energy of his, to his department, and he has been very courteous in sending out to us, along the line of the work that he is engaged in, full information in a way which is most commendable. I can only wish that he would devote his enthusiasm to saving men's lives instead of destroying them. Of course, that is the