

to command as well as to be commanded. Then he will not be a mere machine and he will be fitted to take his place in action. These young men should receive a certain amount of training before they go into these military schools. At the present time two or three weeks are lost in training boys to form and turn when they should have learned these movements in the public schools. If you adopt the system which I propose you will be able to turn out 100 young men where you are now only able to turn out ten fairly well trained to take command. A system of encouraging these young men to go on from step to step should be adopted, but the great point I make now is that you should begin their military education while they are young and admit them to the military schools as cadets. A boy of fifteen years of age can leave his home and attend the military school for three months whereas a boy of twenty years of age cannot do it so easily. Young men should not be forced to give up three months of their time to attend military schools when they have reached a period of their lives when the necessary time cannot so well be lost as it can five years earlier in their career.

Another incentive in addition to that one is that what he learns young always comes back to the boy again. I would urge upon the hon. minister the advisability of reducing the age for allowing officers in. When I was honoured with the command of the regiment with which I was so long connected I encouraged every one of my officers to enlist boys of fifteen and sixteen years of age so long as they were able to fill the jackets, and I can say without fear of contradiction that no other regiment in the Dominion of Canada has ever stood so well as the old 45th. Let the boys begin their military training at an early age. One-fifth of the boys that climbed the heights of Alma were under twenty years of age. My hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Roche) told how Napoleon had won his battles. Bonaparte won his fights not because of his training at all, but he won his battles because he led the young free men of the army of France against the old fossilized systems of Europe which had begun in the dark age of tyranny and superstition which had crushed Europe under their heel. The same system has kept Russia down. Bonaparte did not go around parading with ikons but he went around with boys who were capable of taking the field. That is why Bonaparte won his battles and not because he went around with an army organized on a system long out of date. I maintain that there should be twelve days of drill. I think twelve days is ample. Train the boy in forming and turning, give him the position with the rifle, let him practice it so that he can shoot off each shoulder, let the boy feel that he has confidence in handling the rifle and when the boy is twenty years of age give him twelve days in camp and

with all due deference to those who have no use for the militia on active service let me say that I would have no hesitation in taking lads of that kind into an engagement under any conditions. Reference has been made to artillery and rifle shooting. Like Conan Doyle I have faith in the lad who carries the gun. Artillery has a splendid effect morally. It demoralizes the opposing force but it does not disable it. I have looked into the records as carefully as I could of the results of the war between Japan and Russia and they prove that in the engagements which took place and in which there was heavy gun fire three out of four of the men engaged were bowled out by rifle bullets. After all the weapon on which we must rely is the rifle and while artillery has a demoralizing effect, yet given 20,000 or 40,000 or 50,000 men along the Niagara frontier who are used to the rifle and who can pick men off at a thousand yards, it will take twenty times that number to oppose them. I believe in the use of artillery, I believe in the use of cavalry but as a defensive or as an attacking weapon I think the rifle is the weapon above all others upon which we must rely. I do not know that it is necessary to take up the time of the House any longer. The 5,000 men the hon. minister says, are necessary owing to the taking over of Esquimalt and the Strathcona Horse in the Northwest Territories. I would just merely, in passing, again urge upon the hon. minister the importance of the educational side of the military schools. I think that all these permanent schools should be less military and more educational, more like a university or college and that above all those attending them should not be employed as a police force. I would again urge upon the hon. minister to use his influence to do away with that system. The question has been largely discussed and I am glad to say that in the militia service we are doing away with a lot of those little petty tyrannies and restrictions which used to be enforced. In the old days our camps would be surrounded by men with fixed bayonets waiting to arrest some poor unfortunate fellow who had been out a little late with his girl or spending the evening with the boys in town. They would run him in and the result was that there was always trouble. But once the system of garrisoning the camp with sentries all around to arrest men who happen to be out a little late was done away with, the records show that men left to their own freedom are always prompt in returning and that they come in sober and steady. They are always in early. In the old days we know that one of the practices was for the men to deliberately stay out in order to try to elude the guards, to raise ructions in the camp to turn everything upside down.

I would again urge on the minister, and with special reference to the permanent corps, that wherever it is possible these restrictions should be relaxed. Let the men