

been made by the mover of this motion, and by the hon. member for Toronto (Col. Denison). There may be reasons, and those of a minor character, which may prevent carrying out to the fullest extent the suggestions they have made with reference to drilling the whole militia, but that there should be some system adopted by which officers occupying the position occupied by the officers of the 9th Battalion, referred to by the hon. member for Bellechasse (Col. Amyot), should be enabled to obtain their certificates without leaving their homes and attending the schools for two or three months, I have no doubt; and it shall be my aim if I am spared to preside over this department for any length of time, to devise some economical system by which officers in the different corps of the Dominion may obtain certificates qualifying them for permanent appointments on the staff. I am also in accord, to a certain extent, with the remarks of the hon. member for North Victoria (Major Hughes) on the old system. Probably I am prejudiced somewhat, because in my more active days in connection with the force that system prevailed, and I should schrcely like to say that the officers of that day are not qualified to serve under the gallant colonel who spoke a few moments ago, from Muskoka (Col. O'Brien). I recognize this fact also, while not agreeing with the hon. member for North Victoria in the democratic sentiments he has uttered, at least not to the full extent. In all military organizations there must be something like discipline, and unless there is discipline and that most rigidly enforced, I do not believe any force can be effective, particularly when called upon to perform the duties for which they have banded themselves together. In the hon. gentleman's self is an illustration, probably, of the remarks he made, that if the private knows more than the officer the officer should get out and the private take his place. I fully recognize the fact that the hon. gentleman, when I had the pleasure of drilling him some quarter of a century ago, gave evidence of the qualities of a good soldier who would ultimately rise to the top of the ladder, and who will not, whenever his services may be required, be found wanting either in courage, skill or intellect, or in the performance of his duties. At that time I was considered the master, but just now the private is the master of the Minister of Militia, and it is for him and those who support him in this House, if they can control the majority, to dictate what shall be done, not only by the head of the Government, but by the head of the department. However, I think a moment's reflection will show my hon. friend that, as long as the present system prevails the discipline under present regulations must be continued. I do not know, however, that it should be incumbent upon any officer to furnish a uniform in accordance with the rank he holds, I mean while he

is at the school. That entails upon him an expense which, I think, by some regulation, might be dispensed with. The suggestion made by the hon. member for Toronto (Mr. Denison), that at these schools of instruction we should revert to a certain extent to the old system, by having one common uniform during drill, might be adopted, and thus avoid the difficulties which have presented themselves to many of the officers. I was rather surprised to hear the remarks made by the hon. member for North Victoria with reference to the drill performed at the camp. I may, however, say that I am in accord with him in the view he has expressed that there is no particular object or necessity for asking the young men, particularly those in the rural sections, to appear early in the morning in order to obtain what might be termed healthful exercises in extension drill; but how he ever is to get his men under control or teach them their drill properly without beginning with what is termed squad drill is something I have not yet learned. Perhaps my hon. friend may be able to give me a practical hint which may be of benefit in the future. I shall be glad to avail myself of valuable suggestions from those who have had practical experience in raising volunteer corps. I have long been of opinion, whatever may be said of city battalions, that the battalions raised among the farmers' sons, after a very few weeks' drill in camp or in the drill shed at home, constitute the best possible force we can have. The suggestions which have been thrown out, and which I will not elaborate just now, shall have my best attention, and anything I can do to make the force more effective, consistent with the means of the department and with the revenue of the country, hon gentlemen may rest assured will be done. All it requires is money to drill the whole force, and if Parliament, if the Finance Minister can see their way clear to ask Parliament to grant \$100,000 or \$200,000 in addition to that already asked for, \$275,000, we should be enabled to place the whole force under camp during the present year. Whether the revenue of the country would justify that expenditure I am not at this moment prepared to say. I will say, however, before sitting down, that I shall devote some attention to the management, and not only the management, but the system which prevails at present in the military schools, and also in connection with the staff connected with the whole force, and if I can see my way to suggest to my colleagues any means by which efficiency can be maintained and expenditure reduced, it shall be my duty to do so.

The Canadian Militia List, corrected to the 1st January, 1892, has just been issued by the Department, and contains the usual information.

COL. O'BRIEN'S LECTURE.

(Concluded.)

From the existence of the Active Force under present conditions I draw another conclusion of great practical moment. I believe that as at present constituted it is eminently suited to the country. It is so inexpensive, the whole cost being less than 25 cents per annum upon each of the population, that the most severe economist cannot find fault on that score. Being a purely voluntary force, and chiefly supported by the independent yeomanry of the country, it involves no serious burden upon our industrial resources, and affects only those who willingly assume the task. The headquarters of each corps being local, it enlists in its support a variety of local interests, and the people of the locality take a pride and interest in the efficiency of the corps, and willingly aid in its support. By simply increasing the number of men per company its numerical strength can be doubled without any additional cost for officers or staff, and that strength could be kept up by regular recruiting at the various company and regimental headquarters. To increase its efficiency in drill all that is necessary is to call it out, for it has its own instructors always ready for use, and of the aptitude of the men for learning all the duties of a soldier I need say nothing. Experience has shown that it can be rapidly assembled, and rapidly mobilized. While democratic in theory, as regards the social status of its officers, the men have a wholesome sense of discipline which checks too much familiarity between them and their officers, even when the latter may be socially on the same level with themselves; and, as far as my observation goes, they most respect those officers who most respect themselves, and have a proper idea of what is due, if not to themselves, at least to the commission which they hold. But, say our critics, the force is composed of such shifting material that the men drilled one year are gone the next, and therefore the money spent upon them is wasted. To some extent this may be true, but, on the other hand, the very weak point of the system has its advantages. It keeps the military spirit constantly fermenting. It diffuses a knowledge of soldiering, however slight, through a large part of the adult population, and there is always a nucleus of drilled men existing in every corps who cling to it from pure love of it, who set an example, and give a pattern to the recruit, teach him his duties, instil into him a proper sense of *esprit du corps*, and impart an air of soldierly bearing. In every regiment there are enough of such men competent for the position of non-commissioned officers, and frequently for that of commissioned officers; enough also to take up and discharge all duties when the regiment is called out, while the recruits are being instructed. And the result is, taking the rural corps as a whole, that the