

graduates of the Military College, but nothing has been done in a regular or systematic fashion, and, if that college is to be maintained, I think it would be very desirable that that should be done. I intimated last night what I now repeat, that I have reason to fear that the discipline and the general efficiency of that institution is not being maintained at as high a standard as it used to be, and I add this now for the consideration of the Minister and of the Government. There is no doubt they were actuated by a laudable desire to save the public chest when they raised the annual charge from I think \$100 or \$150 to \$350 or \$400; but the hon. gentleman will observe that, by raising the fee to the present rate, there is no doubt that he has practically converted this college into an institution where only the better class, or rather I should say the wealthier class, are likely to send their sons. In former times, and when the admission fee was as low as I mentioned, the choice for matriculants was much wider. It was a sort of prize in those days, and, as the entrance was determined by open competition, a much larger field, so to speak, was drawn upon for the persons who were admitted; and it is within my own knowledge that some of the most distinguished graduates who have left that college were the sons of farmers and men in comparatively poor circumstances, who certainly could not get admitted now. There is no doubt, as I have said, that, although the object of the Government may have been very good in desiring to save the public treasury, the practical effect has been to narrow the field of admission to a very considerable degree. As to the management, that I shall leave to the hon. gentleman to investigate. As to the question of the best mode of utilizing these young men's services for the benefit of Canada, I respectfully submit that it is eminently desirable, particularly in view of the fact that an immense number of them do not remain in Canada but are now employed to my certain knowledge in the United States, that an effort should be made to retain a certain number of them for the benefit of our public service. I think that these four commissions in the Imperial service should be supplemented by a moderate number—I do not suggest more than half a dozen—of posts in the public service of Canada being given as a right to the most distinguished of the graduates. There ought to be a graduating class varying from 20 to 24 every year, and we ought to have, as well as the Imperial service, the pick of these men for our public service. That is all I desire to say upon the subject.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I wish the hon. gentleman to recollect that I have been speaking merely from memory, and I would not wish to be tied down to the numbers I have given to-night, but on Monday I can place on the Table the list of those who matriculated and of those who passed the final examination this year. As to the management, I can tell the hon. gentleman—and he no doubt may know it as well as I do—that the most brilliant class we have ever had in the Royal Military College has come out this year under the present management. The cadets who have left our college to seek in life the career for which their training has fitted them, have left under the most brilliant auspices. Now, Sir, it would not be right, I think, for us, after the great advantages which are conferred by the Royal Military

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

College upon those who are trained within its walls, to say that because a man comes from that college, every position in the public service and in the force should be open to him. I stated last night that I believe it to be a correct principle to give Government commissions to cadets and to members of the force who distinguished themselves by past services which Canada cannot forget. I look upon the Royal Military College as an institution of which Canada may well be proud, but I do not think we should forget the services of the militia force of the country who have for years been fighting the battles of the country single-handed, and under disadvantages which the cadets have not known. My hon. friend the Minister of Marine has got cadets in his department; I have cadets in my department, and there are cadets in the different departments of the country.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. How many in all?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I can tell the hon. gentleman that there are six in the Government departments alone. In my department I have Mr. White, a cadet who carried honours in the Royal Military College, and who occupies a very prominent and responsible position. Now, the hon. gentleman has spoken of those who, after leaving the college, have gone over to the States or to other countries. I can tell him that they have not ceased to remain strong Canadians, even after they have left this country. In 1885, when the troubles broke out in the North-West, I received telegrams from every cadet, some of them occupying prominent positions and receiving high salaries, tendering their services to Canada. Now, Sir, I claim that the Royal Military College is an institution of which Canada can be proud; I know that my hon. friend from South Oxford views it in that light. I believe that every day we are gradually doing more and more for the cadets in that institution, but to say that we should set aside all others who have not been trained in that institution, but who are deserving of consideration at our hands, I think would be going too far. I venture to suggest that it would not be to the advantage of the college itself, because the public might consider that we were training up these young men as a privileged class, whereas in our country we have no privileged classes. I can tell the hon. gentleman that I hope to lay upon the Table, when we meet again, a list of the cadets who have been matriculated and graduated.

Resolutions concurred in.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and House adjourned at 11.35 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, 24th August, 1891.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

LT.-COLONEL WM. HERCHMER.

Mr. AMYOT asked, Has the hon. the Minister of Justice received the letter referred to in the following communication, to wit:—