

uniform, and, in case of mounted officers, proper saddlery in addition, items which vary in cost from \$100 to \$300, according to rank and corps. Then again, they have to pay regimental and band subscriptions, which in some corps are very heavy, while during the year many calls are made for various other objects.

If a certain percentage of the population strive to render themselves able to defend the balance with ability and success, the large majority who do not join the force should, at least, indemnify the smaller number for the time spent in their service. In the language of Col. Hewitt, "High excellence cannot be obtained without reasonable and adequate expenditures, and half measures and true economy are at all times incompatible."

But serious as are the difficulties in the way of obtaining a general knowledge of drill, the most serious want of all is the utter lack of knowledge of the use of the rifle. We are told in the appendix to the field exercise that "no degree of perfection a soldier may have attained in the other parts of his drill can upon service remedy any want of proficiency in this; in fact, all his other instruction in marching and manoeuvring can do no more than place him in the best possible situation for using his weapon with effect. A soldier who cannot shoot is useless and an encumbrance to his battalion." Had General Luard, at each inspection, followed out the directions laid down for the guidance of general officers in the regular army, and required "ten files taken indiscriminately from the several companies to fire ten rounds per man in individual volleys independent or skirmishing practice," he would have been somewhat startled at the result. As General Smyth reported in 1878, "Under the present system it is only waste of money in using ammunition to some of the corps, and each year many men join who have never had a rifle in their hands before. They cannot be expected to learn the use of their rifle and some knowledge of drill in thirty-six hours, the time allowed for training—three hours in each twelve days—by law established." The fact of the matter is, the men have no opportunity afforded them of learning this most essential part of their military education. A young mechanic cannot leave his work to go to the range without a pecuniary sacrifice which he does not feel called upon to make, and if any effort is made to compel him to do so, he at once sends in his uniform, and we lose him altogether. The consequence is that the men are lamentably ignorant of the use of their weapon, and if called out for actual service, would probably be as much a source of danger to each other as to the enemy. There are, of course, exceptions in every regiment, but they form but a small proportion of the whole. This knowledge of the rifle is of vast importance to the Canadian militia, for we must never lose sight of the fact that, if war should unhappily arise, we should be opposed to a nation able to put into the field ten men for our one, and in the face of these overwhelming numbers, we could only hold our own by opposing better men. The only way to cope successfully with them would be by increasing the individual excellence of our soldiers, so that if they fired fewer shots they would fire with more deadly effect.

Is it therefore wise for our Government to take steps to increase our stock of soldiers and manufacture the ammunition for the present state of affairs. Sir Selby Smyth has placed on record his opinion that "our active force ought to be compact and instructed; no stronger than we have funds to equip and maintain efficiently—corresponding with the Parliamentary appropriation—and without imposing on zealous officers the necessity which has so frequently occurred of supplementing considerable sums from private resources to maintain their corps creditably. It is surely wiser to have such a force as we can drill and discipline, to serve as a nucleus for a larger, than to attempt, year after year, with insufficient means, to keep up a nominal large one which does not altogether give satisfaction. Trained and disciplined officers and non-commissioned officers are of the first importance. Till a system is established to provide such instruction the militia will not maintain the standard which a national force should represent. Schools should be provided for elementary drill and discipline in interior economy of regiments and command of armed men. Does not the proper organization of a military force devolve on a country as much as the means of administering the laws which are carried out under its protection? It is preparation which ensures success when the unlooked-for day of trial suddenly arrives, and therefore a perfect organization, with skill and efficiency in every branch, with perfect discipline, are indispensable." Putting aside the question of a small regular army, which I believe the country is not yet prepared to take up, and which, according to General Smyth's calculation, would cost \$200,000 per regiment of 500 men, let us see if there is no other way of acquiring the necessary knowledge, drill, and discipline, and at a less cost. There is no system that I have heard of that appears so well calculated to carry out these objects as that now in operation in South Australia. There, if my memory serves me right, the rates of pay are: Lieut.-Colonel, £100, and £75 horse allowance; Majors, £75 and £75, Adjutant, £30 and £5; Captains, £50; 1st Lieutenant, £10; 2nd Lieutenant, £9; Staff-Sergeant, £20; and so on down to privates, who get £12. In return for this all the officers are required to be perfectly uniformed, the field officers to be properly mounted and to own their own horses, and the whole to spend a certain number of days in camp, a further number of evening drills at head-quarters, and go through a course of musketry instruction. A similar system could, with advantage, be introduced here, and the rates made somewhat similar, say for a six company regiment—

1 Lieut.-Colonel, \$100 and \$75 allowance	\$ 700
2 Majors, \$300 and \$300 allowance	1,200
6 Captains, \$200	1,200
6 Lieutenants, \$150	900
2 2nd do., \$100	200
1 Paymaster and Quartermaster	200
1 Adjutant, \$200 and \$300	500
1 Surgeon	200
1 Assistant-Surgeon	150
1 Sergt-Major—permanently on duty	300
1 Quartermaster and Paymaster Sergeant	300
1 Ordinary room clerk	90
6 Color-Sergeants, also to act as instructors, and to be permanently on duty, at \$300	1,800
12 Sergeants, \$70	840
18 Corporals, \$30	540
6 Buglers, \$25	150
300 Rank and File, Bandsmen, &c., \$50	15,000
Band and Company allowance, &c.	2,450
	\$27,080

Under these rates of pay the country could secure the services of a well trained and disciplined body of men, and at but a fraction of the

cost of regular soldiers. Ten such regiments would provide 3,700 well-drilled men ready to move at a moment's notice, at the very moderate cost of \$270,000 per annum, and would be very far ahead in point of usefulness of "the armed and undisciplined multitude of officers and men" which now represent the active militia.

The above extracts will be read with interest by all, but without much faith in the remedy proposed, i.e., to destroy a localized organization of 49,000 militia, artillery, cavalry, infantry, which if it only had a skeleton of trained officers and non-commissioned officers would be worth something, even at the beginning of war, to defend the strategic points of a frontier of 4,000 miles, and with three months training would be worth a great deal. As a substitute we are offered 3,700 highly paid citizen volunteers in 10 battalions, with about as many rank and file as a Prussian company, (when the battalion band had been deducted) what remains? a plethora of field and other officers as far as pay and uniform is concerned, for no guarantee is offered or proposed for military qualification. "What an inordinate quantity of sack to a single penny worth of bread." Certainly let militia officers who will go to a school of instruction and obtain a reliable certificate after a fixed curriculum of study be paid what would reimburse them for uniform and time expended. As for the rank and file—why should they have to pay for helmets and fur caps and necessary equipment which should be issued from store with a man's arms and uniform; they would get a better class of men by so doing than those who come for pay, and the expectation of a supplementary kit at the expense of their officers, as a fact some of the best regiments don't take their pay, but put it into the regimental funds to pay what Government should give. When we have the gold of Australia we can afford to pay an army of militia field officers. But has the writer of the letter, who censures militia musketry, and who, if we mistake not, went home to England as executive officer in command of the Dominion Rifle Association team, nothing to say about the association and its want of effect on the training of the rank and file of the Canadian militia in rifle shooting? He would wait to manufacture cartridges until he had the best rifle in the world. The cost of the best rifle would absorb the whole militia vote, and it would be surpassed by another before we got it out of the hands of the Store Department. The Prussians beat the French with a far inferior rifle than the Snider, and we hope a Canadian force if well led, would know how to fight in their well-wooded and enclosed country in such a manner that their 600 yard range rifle would be on an equality with the best long range fancy target practice armament. If we could afford a new armament by all means let us. But have we done the best with what we have? Suppose for once in a way the political gentlemen acted on the reports of the officers they pay to inspect their militia, broke up bad corps and spent more money on the efficient ones, gave extra pay to those officers as adjutants and instructors, who had qualified at one of the Royal Schools of instruction at Kingston and Quebec, or who were passed graduates of the Royal Military College. The bunkering after Halifax is scarcely comprehensible—can the officers of that garrison take more interest in the instruction of the militia than those of their own schools established for that purpose? In appraising the value of a mil-