

their time in the recruiting of men, and in drilling them. Go down to the drill shed any evening, and you will find the finest young fellows in charge of these corps, giving their time every night for their own advantage and for the instruction of the boys throughout the city who belong to the various corps. These young men, I say, are sacrificing their time and their means, and they are undoubtedly one great factor in preserving this force up to its efficient state.

I also believe that there should be a permanent corps in the Northwest, a centre of mounted men, because our Northwest is peculiarly fitted for the raising of horses and for the raising of the feed for horses. I will take this opportunity of again urging upon the government the propriety of endeavouring to induce the imperial authorities to establish horse breeding establishments, not under the auspices of the Minister of Agriculture of Canada, nor under any other Minister of Canada, but under some independent board, perhaps a joint board composed of imperial and colonial officers under the management of some independent body. I would like to see large areas set apart for the raising of horses especially for mounted work. Undoubtedly if Canada is ever called upon to engage in a contest with our cousins across the border, that war will be waged to a large extent by the assistance of mounted troops. I would urge as an additional reason the fact that Britain, in the South African war, called on Canada for large numbers of horses. She may call on Canada again for large numbers of horses, should she become involved in another war. I would therefore instantly urge upon the government the advisability of setting apart enormous ranches in the Northwest where horses could be raised, and where farmers and horse breeders might have the advantage of a superior stock for the improvement of their horses. I shall not here enter into a detailed statement of my idea of what the military system of the country should be, it is on record in the 'Hansard' for many a year. In the first place, I would have all the boys in the country after the age of 12 years taught to drill. The fact that a boy is taught to turn to the right, and turn to the left, and turn about, when he is a mere lad, gives him a facility that he will never lose when he grows older. When the Prime Minister shouldered his musket, not the Saskatchewan musket, but the Fenian Raid musket, long years ago, he became so proficient that he would now shoulder it automatically. In the same way, if you train a boy when he is a lad he never forgets it. Train him to handle a lacrosse stick as a lad, and he remembers it until he is 60 years of age. Train him to catch a ball as a boy, and he will never forget

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it. Therefore I would give all boys in connection with the universities and the senior clubs and in all schools after twelve years of age a preliminary training along these lines. I would like to see the rural school boys trained.

In this connection let me point out, as I pointed out before, that there should be men from every company of the rural militia, or the volunteer militia, that there should be at least one sergeant in a country district in each township, or in a range of townships, set apart whose duty it should be to visit the public schools at certain intervals during the year and give the boys lessons in drill. There will be no harm in giving the girls drill also. Give them two or three lessons in sighting and bringing the rifle to the shoulder and in firing a few rounds at a target from a miniature rifle and in a very few years under a system of that kind, so far as training the boys in ordinary squad and company drill and so far as training them to sight rifles are concerned, the preliminary education of an army of riflemen would be accomplished at a minimum of cost to the nation. The hon. Minister of Militia is gradually progressing along these lines and I commend him for what he is doing in this direction. Then, having drilled them in this way, having proper instructors for drilling them, not from the permanent corps, but selected from amongst the sergeants in the militia companies, let the boys, as they get older, be formed into companies and let the companies be formed into regiments, batteries or squadrons as the case may be in every county in the Dominion. For the training of officers I would send these young men to the military schools as cadets, not as soldiers under military discipline, although they would necessarily be under a certain amount of military discipline while attending these schools. The result would be that a captain would be a cadet, a private would be a cadet, a sergeant would be a cadet and each would stand on the same footing; it would be an educational institution rather than a military institution. I would give to these boys the same freedom as that which is accorded to their brothers who attend universities and colleges giving literary, medical and legal courses, the same opportunity for self-control and for the development of manhood in their training. Let them go in as cadets and train them to handle a squad, battalion or squadron. When you have a boy of fifteen years of age who is capable of standing in front of a regiment—and there are many boys who have been quite capable of handling a company at the age of fifteen—he is a bigger man than if he stood in the ranks as a private. I would have every man in the ranks stand out in front of his squad and drilling them. Not only to be commanded but to command, should be the principle upon which we should go. Every man from the private up should be trained