

than the number required by law, it had been disbanded, and he had felt that he had been so unjustly treated that he did not think that it was worth his while to use fresh exertions to get up the effective strength of the company when, perhaps, the men who had served their five years would be treated as all other volunteers had been in Nova Scotia, with neglect, and almost with contempt, and after all the time spent in making themselves efficient, be sent back to the militia ranks.

Dr. BROWN observed that the surgeons had been omitted from the list.

Hon. PROV. SEC. said in reference to the position of the Volunteer force and the Militia organization that upon more than one occasion, he had called attention to the great difficulty of maintaining the Volunteer organization upon an efficient footing in a country like this. Lord Mulgrave had undertaken the formation of the Volunteer system in this province, and there was no doubt that his efforts had been eminently successful, although the success was to a large extent due to the fact of the novelty of the undertaking. Even in England where the movement originated in the idea that it was necessary that some steps should be taken to preserve the national honor in view of foreign invasion, where it received the patronage of Royalty, and the hearty co-operation of the Peerage and the landed gentry of the country—where in point of fact all classes combined to give it a most hearty support—even there, with all these favorable circumstances the government found it was necessary in order to maintain the system on a proper footing to pay the Volunteers, from the public Treasury, a pound sterling per man per annum. He had always said that too much praise could not be given to the Volunteers of this province for the spirit which they evinced in coming forward at a time when the militia force was in a state of desuetude, and something had to be done for the local defences of the country. They had come forward and rendered themselves so efficient as to compare favorably with any other organization in the world. In point of numbers, when the relative population was taken into consideration, they equalled those of England, and as regards efficiency as he said before, they could hold their own with any others. Yet still, while fully admitting the success of the movement, he had always been convinced that in a country like this, where time is so valuable, great difficulty would be experienced in maintaining the system after the novelty had worn off. In the city it might possibly be done, but in the country, where the people are scattered over a large area, it was almost impossible. He did not think the organization had ever received proper encouragement from those in authority, and in saying this he did not wish to cast any reflection upon any one government more than another, for he was aware that he was open to a share of blame. It was not much a matter of surprise to him that the movement had rather declined. It was the natural result of the circumstances he had alluded to, although he did not think it would have been so much the case had not the militia organization been placed upon its present comparative state of efficiency. He had no hesitation in saying that a large amount of the success which had attended the re-organization of the militia service

was justly due to the volunteer force. Instead of the member for Digby (Mr. Campbell) being offended at the fact that some of his volunteers had received militia commissions, he should consider himself complimented at the idea that his men should be considered fitted above others to receive promotion. He had no doubt that what that hon. gentleman complained of, was the case in either parts of the province, and that many of the volunteers would now be found holding militia commissions.

Hon. PROV. SEC. concluded by acknowledging the great claims the Volunteers had upon the gratitude of the country, and as regards the individual case of hardship presented by the member for Colchester, he said it would receive due consideration.

Mr. COLIN CAMPBELL reiterated his conviction that the Volunteers had been made use of, and then sacrificed in order to build up the militia system.

Hon. Mr. SHANNON said that in town the two systems seemed to work together; a good many militia officers were privates in Volunteer companies, and performed duty in both capacities.

Mr. TOWN could not understand how gentlemen could consider the militia system on an efficient footing when the men were not armed. He would like to ask his hon. friend from Lunenburg (Mr. Kaulback) what he could do with his men, without arms. He thought the sooner they were supplied from some source the better. If he was rightly informed, those that had been supplied to the Volunteers, came from the Imperial Government. He thought it was time we began to do something for ourselves. This subject of the local defence of the country was a most serious one, and deserving of the utmost attention. They had only to look across the borders, and see what their neighbours were doing to become impressed with the necessity of taking some action in the matter. It was wonderful to see the powers put forth by the North in this great struggle. Before the war commenced, she had not more than 14,000 soldiers, half of whom went with the South, and a very few ships of war. Since then she had placed in the field 800,000 men, at a cost of one hundred millions of dollars, besides having in her Navy some 500 ships of war. It behoved us, therefore, to prepare in time, for we knew not what a day might bring forth.

Mr. BLACKWOOD was sorry that the volunteer system was dying out. He considered that it possessed many advantages over the militia system—the one was voluntary and the other forced, and you could not rely with the same certainty upon the men in the latter case as in the former. If the volunteer force was dwindling away, it was necessary that something should be done to place the militia upon a more efficient footing, for he considered they were far from that now.

Mr. PRYOR was glad that the efficiency of the militia was beginning to attract the attention of the house; and he hoped that they would deal with it in a liberal spirit.

Hon. ATTY. GEN. remarked that in some parts of the country the volunteer system was really obnoxious to those engaged in the militia business, inasmuch as advantage was taken of it to elude serving in the militia; and in many cases they actually served in neither one branch of the service nor the other. No