

I hope the views entertained by the hon. gentleman are not shared by any other member of this House.

Mr. BARRON. I wish to impress upon the hon. Minister the importance of having annual drill. That matter has been pressed by many members, and I am sure the hon. Minister will be glad to see that its desirability is so generally agreed upon. I was much impressed by the remark of the hon. member for Muskoka (Mr. O'Brien), last night, when he said that the increase to the country of expenditure would not amount to more than 10 or 15 cents per head. If that be so, let us have the annual drill. In my part of the country the volunteer system is suffering very seriously. I know in particular of one officer, a gentleman who stands very high in the volunteer force, who has said to me that he will have to leave the force unless the system of annual drill is introduced, because he finds that when he has to assemble his men for drill under the biennial system, he has to look for entirely new men, and it is impossible to keep up his corps, which is a cavalry corps. I hope that a little more attention will be given the rural battalions, and that the hon. Minister's care will not continue to be monopolized by the city battalions.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I have only a word to say in answer to the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) who, I must admit, has been very fair in his criticism of the manner in which the department has been administered. I should like him to compare what we have at present to provide for with what we had to provide for in 1874. In 1874 we had only two batteries, and now we have all the other training schools which must be provided for. I think, under the present system, if the hon. gentleman looks into the matter with his critical mind, he will find that, for the surplus of money we are expending to-day, we have a system which is much more complete and which contributes more to the efficiency of the force than that which we had in 1874. We were then only beginning it, and we have been progressing in that respect, as we have been progressing in other branches in Canada. We have been trying to make it more complete, and we believe that, from what we had expended and are expending to-day, we have a system which is satisfactory in its results.

Royal Military College of Canada..... \$77,000

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Last night this item was touched about half past one, and there was no possibility of discussing it to any purpose at that hour, so I let it alone, on the understanding that, if a discussion were wanted, it might be had to-night. I have some questions to put to the hon. gentleman in regard to this matter. I would be glad to know, in the first place, what the number of the graduating class was last year?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I have not that information here, and I would be speaking merely from memory; but I can produce the list of the graduates at any time.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. From recollection, what do you suppose to be the number of the graduating class of this year?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I should not like to speak from memory. Although the hon. gentle-

man's recollection and mine may differ, I think we discussed this matter for two hours last night, and I had my officers here then.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Allusions were made to it last night, but no information was given, as you will see from the Debates.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I know several allusions were made to it, but no allusion was made to the number of graduates. However, I can produce the list of those whose names were submitted to Council, and who came out at the last examination, without any trouble. I think it was between 22 and 25, but I would not be certain.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What is the number of those who passed the matriculation examination this year?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I would not like to state that from memory. That is not information which I had in my book, but information which comes into the department, but I can produce it at any time. I think the number was about 10 or 16, but I would not be sure.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. That is about one-half the number or thereabouts that the college was expected to receive. The hon. gentleman knows that the annual matriculating class should be 24 or a little more.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Yes.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Of course, the late Government were responsible for instituting the college, but it was our intention, as announced at the time, that, in addition to the four commissions which are given by the Imperial authorities to the graduates in each class, at least half-a-dozen of those who are most proficient should be given a chance of entering the Canadian Civil Service in connection either with the public works, or the mounted police, or the military service, or some other department for which they would be suited, and I have always felt that, practically, an injustice was done, if the college was to be continued at all, in not carrying out that project; and I believe also that it would have been very greatly to the benefit of the people of Canada if a considerable number of those graduates had been employed in connection with Canadian public works. That has been done in other countries. I think that has been done in connection with West Point to the profit of the American service, and I am perfectly certain that these men, most of whom are receiving an education which fits them more or less for the position of civil engineers, would be useful public servants, and that their employment would probably have tended to maintain a higher standard of honour in the Department of Public Works than has prevailed, as unfortunately we know to our cost. I think it is not too late even now. I have repeated that request to the Ministers time and time again. Since 1879, I think not a year has elapsed when I have not urged the expediency of offering a certain number of posts in the Civil Service to the most deserving of those graduates, not with the desire to benefit them, but because I think they would form that class of engineers which it would be most desirable to have in our public service. I am bound to say that the present Minister of Militia has endeavoured, on several occasions, when he was allowed to have his way, to give posts to the