

I am anxious not to be misunderstood in this matter. I do not believe we can do *without* these schools. I believe them to be essential to the militia, but I hold that the appointments thereto should not be made through political influence, but should be entirely in the hands of the General Commanding, in order that he might exercise the full power of selection from particularly qualified officers of the militia and R.M.C. Cadets. If the General Commanding had his hands free in this matter I feel sure the appointment to these lectureships (as one may really call them), would not be of the kind they frequently are now, and the work would be thoroughly done, and the country would get the worth of its money, and the militia would not have to complain as it does now that some of these schools are a burden instead of a help.

At all events, before any further sum is expended upon them, the great and pressing wants of the active militia ought to be attended to. Out of a total expenditure upon its behalf of \$1,279,563, the active militia draws, directly, a very small proportion and appears often a secondary consideration, although the rest of the organization would not exist except to administer to its requirements.

We cannot possibly all agree upon these important subjects of which I have been writing, but when men will read and think and talk and write, there are hopes for them.

I am fully aware that I am not a "Sir John A.," and cannot carry the country immediately upon my "national policy," but a mouse may help a lion, and I can keep on quietly digging and digging, and am bound to make some impression in time. If I succeed in *making half a dozen men* "THINK" upon the subject I shall have accomplished something.

It seems to me that the militia has two strong enemies within itself. One is mostly to be found in rural corps. It joins apparently in order to astonish its country friends now and then with its gorgeous apparel, or in order to go upon a cheap ten days' picnic biennially.

The other is mostly in city corps. It is a supercilious thing wrapped up in its own importance. It goes about thinking "You can't find much fault with us. We are the stuff. We are." It forgets that even if its own unit is as perfect as it thinks—which, by the bye, it never is—it is still one very, very small unit in the line of national defence. It omits to "think" outside its own little circumference, and it has joined the militia apparently for its "self-glorification."