

direction. I have heard hon. gentlemen propose—and rightly possibly from their stand-point—that the pay of the men should be increased, and I have heard hon. gentlemen propose an increase of 10 cts. a day. Now, I have taken particular trouble to ascertain exactly how the militiamen—or military men, if I may so call them—of Canada have been paid; and I can say that even 60 cts. instead of 50 cts. a day would not at all remunerate them for the time they lose in going into camp. I know and have met men in the various camps which it has been my privilege to visit, who were paying, over and above the 50 cts. they received, \$1 a day, and sometimes more, to men to take their places on farms, or in the various establishments and factories where they were employed. I consider that the militiamen of Canada do not seek a complete remuneration for the time spent in learning their drill, and in picking up the information which is absolutely requisite to establish a force that can be called upon at any moment to protect the country, or to take that position which an efficient Militia force should occupy; but they consider that the Government, in giving this 50 cts. a day, does so merely to defray their expenses, and we have never found any difficulty in getting men to take this view of the question to fill up the ranks, when this was requested. All the battalions in the various branches of the service, the different batteries, the troops of cavalry, and batteries of artillery, always find the men required to fill up their ranks. If the 10 cts. additional a day were added to the present expenditure, hon. gentlemen will understand, that for 20,000 men, this would make an increase of \$2,000 per diem, and for twelve days drill, of \$24,000 per annum. I believe that the Militia force of Canada will consider that in view of the improvements which we are now introducing, and the various changes which we are making in the old Militia Act of Canada, we are sincerely desirous of giving to it the greatest possible efficiency; and I know, and believe, and am certain, that the Militia force of Canada will be perfectly ready to allow us to proceed gradually, and not to bring down, as yet, too large a budget for the Militia Department, which would be considered to be too large or too great for the resources or requirements of the country. I feel that, as the Bill now stands, it will give to the Militia force of Canada the greatest possible efficiency, and that those who have taken an interest in the matter and looked into it will be satisfied with it. We have our difficulties, of course, in a country like Canada. We cannot expect, and do not require,—and I as head of the Department would be very sorry indeed to organize—anything bearing the expense of a standing army, as some papers have alleged—and in such a way indeed, as I thought that the facts of the case did not at all warrant. The whole standing army of Canada will consist of 750 men, which cannot be considered as a menace in any respect. If this is a standing army, it is a standing army simply in the sense of being the means of educating our militiamen who have been clamoring for the opportunity of gaining that knowledge and experience in Militia matters which would qualify them to pass their examinations and obtain their commissions. We have already in the case of "A" and "B" Batteries applied that system to the artillery, and the effect has been to distribute all over the country a large number of trained and experienced men, who, in case of an emergency, would be ready to take charge of the force. All we have done in this Bill is to apply to the infantry the system which has worked so well with the artillery. I leave it to the Committee to decide whether this is not a Bill which will meet the requirements of the force, and place it in a state of efficiency which it has not possessed heretofore.

Mr. THOMPSON. I desire to ask the hon. Minister two or three questions. To the schedule itself I offer no objection, as I believe it is about as fair as we might expect. I would ask if the hon. gentleman meant when he stated that

this would apply to the city corps, that there would be any longer period than the twelve days annual drill. What have the city corps been getting in the past?

Mr. CARON. This applies to every day during which the Militia would be called out in active service. Of course, it would apply only to the twelve days drill in the case of the city corps; but when applied to active service this schedule will regulate the pay which will be given on every occasion when a rural and city corps are called out.

Mr. THOMPSON. But if the city corps drill at headquarters will they get it?

Mr. CARON. Yes.

Mr. THOMPSON. Then with reference to the last item on the list, will that apply to field officers' horses?

Mr. CARON. Yes.

Mr. LISTER. I understood the hon. gentleman to state in the former discussion on the Bill, that the men were to be rewarded by medal or otherwise for long service?

Mr. CARON. If the hon. gentleman so understood me I have only to say that I did not intend to make a remark in the sense in which he understood me. I have no doubt that in the future such a policy may be arrived at, but there is no intention of making any change in that regard by the Bill which is now before the House.

Mr. LISTER. When this Bill was before the House the other day, I took the liberty of suggesting certain amendments to the hon. Minister of Militia. I also adverted to the fact that, in my opinion, the men of the force were inadequately paid. The hon. gentleman does not appear to have regarded these suggestions, and he appears to think that the men are sufficiently well paid. I beg further to call his attention to the fact that in 1878, when the last Government was in power, the pay of the men was 60 cts. per day, and since the accession of the present Administration to power the allowance has been reduced to 50 cts. I entirely approve of the advance which has been made in putting the city force on the same footing as the other as regards pay, but I think that the motives which induced the hon. Minister to increase their pay might have been extended to the rank and file of the force. The hon. gentleman is mistaken when he says that the men are willing to serve at 50 cts. per day, and in support of my statement I call attention to the fact that in many of the counties of Ontario the pay of the volunteers has been supplemented by grants from the county councils, showing that the pay they receive is not considered satisfactory. If the force is as efficient as the hon. Minister of Militia says it is, it is to a large extent due to the liberality of the county councils throughout the Provinces. I think some inducement should be held out to the volunteers to remain in the service and to make themselves efficient soldiers; and I would suggest to him that the pay of the volunteers should be increased gradually from year to year. For the first year's service they might receive 50 cts. per day, and each year thereafter an increase of 10 cts. per day until the expiration of five years when their pay would be \$1 per day, which would be no more than they are entitled to. As I stated the other day, in 1878 the volunteers of this country were led to believe that if hon. gentlemen opposite who were then in Opposition attained to the Treasury benches, they would consider what they regarded a grievance on the part of the volunteers and would remove that grievance by increasing their pay. These promises, although not made by Ministers themselves, were made by candidates who were supporters of the Ministry; and I feel it is the duty of this Government to carry out the pledges they made to these volunteers. I feel that the Government has done an injustice to the volunteer force of the country, and this measure, so far as the