

ejected by the Sergeant-at-Arms. To our mind, much less sympathy, with Hurrell and much more with poor Valiquette's relatives, would have better harmonised with the facts of both cases.

The Militia in Parliament.

When the militia estimates were being passed in Committee of Supply on Friday evening, last, there was some interesting discussion concerning the force, brought about by questioning on the part of the Opposition. Hon. A. G. Jones started the ball, reading from unfavourable reports made by some musketry instructors concerning the ammunition served out at the camps in 1889. Sir Adolphe Caron said these complaints must have arisen from the use of very old ammunition, long in store in the country, as that now being made here was giving every satisfaction. Mr. Jones next brought up the old-time clothing complaints, and the Minister was able to tell him that such complaints were no longer heard, the Canadian-made clothing giving general satisfaction. In this statement he was backed up by Lieut.-Colonel Kirkpatrick, Lieut.-Colonel Denison and Major-General Laurie. When the item for "care of arms" was being passed, Sir Adolphe intimated, in answer to inquiry, that appropriations for the erection of a drill shed at Kingston, and for the repair of the present shed at Chatham, Ont., might be looked for in the supplementary estimates.

Mr. Casey took exception to the item of \$40,000 for drill instruction, which money, he claimed, was not properly applied, as the instruction, in many cases, was not given at all. In reply, Sir Adolphe Caron said it was undoubtedly the fact that the money granted nominally for drill instruction was in many cases applied for band and similar purposes deserving of aid, and the only question was whether or not the name of the appropriation should be changed. He thought, however, that on the whole, our force was well instructed and that in other countries such instruction as they get would cost a great deal more than it does here. A lengthy general discussion ensued, the following report of which is condensed from *Hansard*:

PAY FOR EFFICIENTS ONLY.

LIEUT.-COL. O'BRIEN.—On several occasions I have called the attention of the Minister and the House to this particular item, and suggested a way by which I think justice might be done. I contend that this money being given properly for drill instruction, ought to be so given that the lazy man who does nothing should not be in the same position as the active man who does a great deal. Speaking for myself and from my own knowledge of the force, I know that of the captains who have been under my command a certain number have steadily and regularly devoted their attention to keeping up their command and have always given as much instruction as it was possible for this small sum. On the other hand there are others who, whenever they do anything, do as little as they can. I, as the officer commanding a battalion, have no power over these men; under the present system I can do nothing. I have no check over this allowance, and have no power to deal with the lazy man, or to make him do his work and earn his money as the other man does. I have suggested to the Minister on two or three occasions, so often, indeed, that I am almost ashamed to mention it again, that if he would only adopt a system, which could easily be carried out, of giving this grant according to the efficiency of the work, that we would stand on a very much better footing and we would get rid of a great many officers of the force who seem to remain in it for the sake of this small fee, and whose only sacrifice is the time of going to camp. Now, if he was compelled to give to his company the care and attention which others gave to it voluntarily, if he did not do his duty we could get rid of him. When the regiment comes to camp all we have to do is for the officer commanding the brigade or battalion to appoint a board of two or three officers to go through the different battalions and inspect each company in rotation. One company could be inspected in this manner in twenty minutes or less: so many sections of company drill, so many sections of squad drill, so much manual exercise and firing exercise. The men should be treated that way, and if a half or one-third of the men were found to reach a certain standard of efficiency the officer should have a certificate and get his money, and if he had not done his duty efficiently then he should not get it. Every time the regiment goes to camp this system could be carried out without any difficulty. We would then get rid of what is an unpleasant thing, the knowledge that careless and lazy officers stand on the same footing as those who are efficient.

ANNUAL DRILLS ADVOCATED.

Of course it could be done much better if the whole force was drilled every year, as we could do, I think, if the Government would only make up their minds to ask this House and the country for the small additional sum necessary to drill the whole force. There are members

of this House who occasionally speak sneeringly of the militia, but the best test of the popularity of the force is to be found in the fact that if the Minister, even in the discharge of public duty, finds it necessary to interfere with the existence of a rural corps, he soon finds a hornets' nest round his ears. Why? Because the force is so popular, and because each county has so much interest in its own regiment that it will not allow the regiment to be interfered with, even although it may appear to be necessary. This is evidence which should convince the Minister that he should ask the House to vote such additional sum as may be necessary to drill the whole force every year, and that such sum would be readily granted and the country would never grudge it, and, therefore, no man need be afraid to vote cheerfully for such appropriation. I think the Minister will admit that such a measure would be cheerfully voted by this House, and I can assure him that the country would back him up in submitting such a proposition. It would relieve us from a very great difficulty that stares us in the face. If a man is enrolled during a year his regiment is not going to camp, his three years' service would have expired and he would have attended only one drill. So the money is practically thrown away. Another matter is this: additional pay should be given to men who have served three years. At present a man who attends one drill is on the same footing as a man who has been ten years in the force, and is a thoroughly efficient man. Some little alteration in this particular, which would cost a comparatively trifling sum, would immensely increase the efficiency of the force.

I wish to say a few words in regard to the clothing, as I did not happen to be present when that item was passed. Without any reference to past transactions or complaints, I am satisfied, from a careful inspection of the clothing now in use, that the clothing department is as good, I think, as it is possible to make it, and the Minister need not be ashamed of the clothing of the force. I desire to call attention to another very important matter. Every one acquainted with the force is aware that there is not a single regiment now fit for active service. What I would suggest to the Minister is, not that he should go to any great expense in this direction, but that he should set aside \$5,000 a year, and in three or four years he would be in a position to obtain proper equipment. He could obtain an equipment either made in this country or an equipment in use in the Imperial service, and \$5,000 a year for a few years would be a good beginning, and in the course of some years the force would be well equipped. As the matter now stands, the force is not in possession of proper means to go into the field, especially in view of our rifles. There is no proper method of carrying ammunition by the men of the force, and it is no use to give men even Sniders unless you have a proper method of carrying ammunition. I wish the Minister would make up his mind to adopt these two suggestions: first, to ask the House for a sufficient sum to drill the force every year; and, second, to set aside a small sum each year for the purpose of procuring the necessary equipment. On examining the clothing the other day, I found a new pattern patrol jacket for some of the permanent corps. The honourable gentleman would save a good many thousands of dollars if he would supply the force in future, at all events to a certain extent, with that class of clothing. A new jacket costs one-half the sum charged for the regulation tunic, and it would be very much better for our service to have this new garment introduced, and not only would a great saving be effected, but it would contribute to the convenience and comfort of the men. There is one point of equipment remaining a difficulty, and that is the head-dress. We have no proper one at present. The forage caps may be good in England, but they are unsuitable either in barracks or in camp here, and considering that a good helmet can be got for \$1.50, I think the Government should make a commencement of the issue of helmets. All these suggestions mean money, but it must be expended if we are to have a force in reality and not in name, and if we are to make the service one which the country will heartily support.

LIEUT.-COL. DENISON.—I desire to add a word in regard to the drilling of the militia every year. I agree that the Minister of Militia should take this subject into his earnest consideration. The present custom is to drill the city corps every year and the rural corps every other year, or, as the member for Muskoka (Mr. O'Brien) said, every third year, which frequently happens, I believe. This, of course, places the rural corps at a great disadvantage. Of course, as I represent a city constituency, we are not affected by it; but taking an interest in the whole militia system, I think it is most trying to the officers commanding the rural corps to keep up the corps when drill comes only every other year. I hope the Minister of Militia will impress this matter on the Government, and the Government will see fit to increase the estimates this year to a sufficient amount to insure that all the militia of Canada be drilled. In order to show that this would be a popular experiment, if that has any weight with the Government, I may mention that in many parts of Ontario we find the county councils voting sums of money to assist in maintaining the county battalions. That shows