

the Minister of Militia the necessity of grafting the old system of schools upon the present system. Under the old system, the cadets were given a cheap uniform by the Government, and after a couple of months' instruction they were examined, and if found capable of passing the examination they were given a certificate; and if not, they were allowed another month, and then if they failed they were returned without a certificate, or, if they succeeded, they received \$50 and got their certificate. This was a cheap and inexpensive way of instructing a very large number of men, and could, I think, very easily have been grafted on the present system. While I do object to some of the large expenses on the permanent corps, I must not be understood as being opposed to them. I am in their favour in their proper place, but it is not desirable that we should go on increasing the expenses of the permanent corps, year after year, and reducing the expenditure on the regular militia. If we follow that course, in time we will have an expensive set of schools, without any militia to instruct, and that, of course, would do away with the necessity for schools, staff, and everything else. Some means ought to be adopted to try to retain the equilibrium between the permanent corps and the regular militia. I would like to add that while we spend \$1,300,000 on militia, and are only enabled to drill one-half of the regular militia, if we could increase that vote by \$150,000, or else reduce expenditure in some other way, we could drill the entire militia, which would be of great service to the country. I regret that General Herbert's term is about to expire, because I consider that he is the best general we have had since the time of Sir Patrick Macdougall. However, his five years are about up, and I suppose we shall have to part with him. As an officer of the force, I say he has done a great deal of good in every way. He has helped on the efficiency of the militia generally, and especially has he improved the permanent corps, and made them much more efficient. I would like to read some extracts from a letter evidently written by an officer, or an ex-officer of the force, and which appeared in the "Globe," on the 21st of May, 1895. It shows the manner in which the militia expenditure has been drifting towards the permanent force. He says:

There is little sign in this country of men who have served in the permanent force being of use as non-coms. in militia battalions; and General Herbert's own express statistics show that the number of men in it who are available as extra instructors is nominally 11.5 per cent. Practically, the only use of the men of the force as instructors would, if carried out, be to drill with attached non-coms. from the ordinary militia force, and to furnish the men by drilling whom attached officers may qualify.

Again, he says:

Again, a large sum is expended yearly for clothing. The private in an average city battalion, as he stands on parade, has his tunic, a pair of trousers, a great coat and a forage cap—in some corps he provides these himself—coming from the Government; his helmet and leggings belong to his corps, and his underclothing and boots are supplied by himself, and exceedingly inefficient for actual campaigning these articles, especially the boots, usually are. And there are many corps whose Government clothing is worn out and shabby to the last degree. Compare with him the man of the permanent corps, provided for, from helmet to boots, with winter and summer clothing and necessaries, and judge as to what share of this allowance for clothing goes to the permanent corps, who are daily in uniform, and what share to the rest of the militia, who wear their clothing only during drill. The benefit of the outlay upon furniture and utensils, &c., goes to the instructional troops. Of late several officers and men have been sent to Britain for instruction, and this swells the expenditure by over \$2,000.

He gives an estimate that he has made up, evidently as carefully as he could, of what the permanent corps takes out of the militia grant of \$1,300,000. He says:

The account for the cost of the permanent force, looked at in this light, mounts up as follows:—

Pay and allowances.....	\$215,033
Provisions, supplies, &c.....	98,472
Clothing and necessaries, say.....	50,000
Remounts	6,684
Artificers, horse-shoeing, &c.....	8,560
Barrack services.....	17,006
R.C.A. Institute, Quebec.....	500
Expenses of trip to England.....	2,023
Change of uniform, R.C.D.....	750
Modern rifles.....	16,156
Military properties.....	47,263
Warlike and other stores, say.....	20,000

Total.....\$482,447

Then he goes on to say that each certificate costs the country \$1,564. Of course, I do not consider that is a fair estimate, because we no doubt have the permanent corps there and the militia behind them as a police force, and for helping the civil power if necessary. Under the old system of schools, I fancy that each certificate did not cost the country more than \$100 or \$150. I would again press upon the Minister of Militia the desirability of looking into this matter and endeavouring to graft the old system of schools upon the present system; and to see if it cannot be carried out in conjunction with the present system in an extensive manner.

Mr. DICKEY. When I deprecated extended discussion on this vote, I assure you it was not that I wanted to avoid a discussion on the militia estimates, because, as everybody in the House knows, I am entirely ignorant of the details of the department I am now administering, and I shall be more than glad to have suggestions from every quarter of the House, from gentlemen who are much more competent to deal