

see that from the example of the great military nations of Europe, who, even at great inconvenience and expense, are changing their small-arms and keeping up with the world's progress in that respect. We should have our force thoroughly efficient in this country, even if we have to reduce the number of men.

**Mr. BERGIN.** My hon. friend from Lambton (Mr. Lister) and, I think, the member for Queen's, P.E.I., (Mr. Davies) asked to know what recommendations had been made with regard to the medical and surgical departments of the militia. I have here the following in the report which I made in 1885 :

*Recommendations.*—Having thus briefly sketched the operations of the medical staff in the field, I may be permitted to direct attention to that which I consider to be the special weakness of the service—I mean the regimental system. During the late campaign it was found to be expensive, extravagant and almost unmanageable. With the exception, I think, of two or three corps, the Queen's Own, the Grenadiers, the Thirty-fifth and the Seventh Battalions, no regimental surgeon accompanied his regiment to the front. The Sixty-fifth, the Ninth, the Halifax Battalion, the Montreal Garrison Artillery, and others from the older provinces, all took with them volunteer surgeons, and, with the exception of the Halifax Battalion, not one of them—of the surgeons attached for the campaign—has made a satisfactory report of the cases treated by him or of the sanitary or unsanitary condition of his regiment that has reached me.

I think this goes to show that the medical service was in an extremely inefficient state at the time of the North-west rebellion, and I do not know that any attempt has been made to alter the condition of the service since.

**Mr. LISTER.** Have you made any representations to the Government?

**Mr. BERGIN.** Yes. The report goes on to say :

*Surgeons recruited in an emergency—Regimental System.*—Surgeons recruited in an emergency, without any previous military medical training, are apt to be, and as in some instances during the late campaign were found to be, very inefficient and, from their want of discipline and ignorance of military law, were very difficult of control, and gave no adequate service in return for the large amounts of money expended upon them for transport, pay and rations.

*Medical Staff Corps.*—I strongly recommend, therefore, that a Medical Staff Corps be formed, very much on the lines of the Medical Staff Corps of Her Majesty's service, due regard being had to the differences of conditions and nature of the two services. The British Medical Service, being a permanent one, ours, so to speak, being more of a temporary character its component parts often varying, frequently changing. The system which I propose includes an administrative and executive staff, field hospital corps, ambulance corps and a military cadet corps. From this latter, year by year, the staff surgeons to be drawn. In my opinion there should be a surgeon-general, the administrative head of the service, a deputy surgeon-general in each of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, a deputy surgeon-general for the Maritime provinces, a deputy surgeon-general for Manitoba, for the North-west Territories and British Columbia, one brigade-surgeon in each military district, one surgeon-major to each brigade division,—the present regimental-sur-

geons, whilst not severing their connection entirely with their regiments, to be considered as surgeons of the staff so long as they remain within their brigade divisions. To meet the future requirements of the service, both for surgeons of the staff, field hospitals and ambulance corps, I beg to recommend that medical cadet corps be established at the seats of our medical schools, say at Montreal, Toronto, Kingston, London, Halifax and Winnipeg; and thoroughly taught ambulance and field hospital work. After graduation, having passed a satisfactory examination, they would be eligible as surgeons of the staff. During their pupilage they can be made available, should the necessity arise, as quartermasters, assistant quartermasters, hospital sergeants, hospital orderlies, dressers, etc. From them could be obtained also, if necessary, some of the material for bearer companies. Before appointment as a surgeon, each candidate should be subjected to an examination, which should embrace the following subjects : *a.* Military surgery, including transport of sick and wounded. *b.* Military medicine and pathology and therapeutics. *c.* Military hygiene. *d.* Duties of executive medical officers during peace and war. He must also give evidence of having attended a complete course of operative surgery in some recognized Medical University; and, in the presence of the examiners, write a thesis upon some military medical or hygienic subject. All warrant officers should pass an examination such as is required by the medical regulations of Her Majesty's army. No staff surgeon should be promoted to the rank of surgeon-major until after ten years' service. No surgeon-major should be appointed to the rank of brigade-surgeon except on the grounds of ability and merit; and in accordance with the regulations laid down for the Medical Department of Her Majesty's Army.

There is a recommendation here that the medical officer of a battalion should take a course of military surgery. One of the difficulties in connection with the medical service is, that the surgeons of the different regiments are appointed, as the Minister knows, upon the recommendation of the officer commanding the battalion. Too often he recommends a surgeon for appointment on the ground of personal friendship, or that he is the brother, or the son, or the nephew of some personal friend, or because he thinks he will be politically serviceable to him. These are not the conditions upon which a man should be appointed. He should be an efficient military medical officer and have the necessary proof to show that he is efficient, or else he should not be appointed.

**Mr. LISTER.** Mr. Chairman, I would call the attention of the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Denison) to the report of the General in command, dated on the 31st December, 1891, in reference to the statement made by that hon. gentleman as to the condition of the militia force up to a recent period and probably down to the present time. He says :

That the Militia Act has not fulfilled the expectations formed 25 years ago, is sufficiently evident to any one who carefully examines the present condition of the force, and compares that condition with the objects, held in view by the Commission, to which I have referred. This is due to many causes, not the least of which is indicated by the fact that many important sections of the Act have remained wholly in abeyance. They never could and never can be prac-