

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Although there appears to be an increase of \$80,000, there will really be a decrease, because in the \$440,000 for the vote for 1901-2 the supplementary estimates for this year are not included, and I shall ask for a further vote for the annual drill of \$150,000, so that really there is a reduction instead of an increase; I have lumped these votes together for the reason I mentioned this afternoon.

Mr. SPROULE. One objection appears to me to be that the pay is too small. Throughout our country the officers are obliged to apply to the municipal councils to supplement the vote by twenty-five cents a day or as much as they can get. Some of the councils are imbued with the spirit of liberality and give it while others do not. If we are to keep up the military force at all, all the pay should come from the consolidated revenue, and it should be large enough to compensate the men for their lost time. It ought not to be necessary for the officers commanding battalions to go around the townships asking the township or county councils to supplement the small allowance of pay by a donation. If we gave a fair compensation there would be very much less trouble getting young men to join the ranks.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I quite agree that it is very undesirable at the last moment to have to solicit men to go to camp, but I think that that is due, to some extent, to the carelessness of the officers themselves in waiting until within two or three days, and sometimes until the very day before the camp and then rushing about to get men. I have no objection to an increase in the pay, but I think it might be given in this way as an inducement to give three years service. I would prefer having the pay increased during the second year and still further increased in the third year. Further than that, I believe that we shall succeed in awaking renewed interest in the militia by encouraging rifle shooting, and I hope that, with a large quantity of free ammunition each year, we shall be able to do that much more effectively than by an increase of pay from fifty cents to seventy-five cents.

Mr. FOWLER. I am strongly in favour of the hon. minister's suggestion to increase the pay to those who continue in the service. We have no difficulty in the section I come from in getting men to go into camp, and, as the minister says, the difficulty is generally due to laxity on the part of officers in not attending to recruiting in time. You will get a much better class of men, if they do not join through the inducement of pay. The less of the mercenary class we get the better, and the greater will be the enthusiasm, and the more efficiently will the work be done. There is one improvement which I would like to insist on, and that is to change

the drill along the lines suggested by my hon. friend from Huntingdon (Mr. MacLaren). We have now a little too much parade, pipe clay and high collar business. We want more of the kind of drill that the Boers get in South Africa, and which has proved very effective, as some of our starched and pipe played British soldiers have found out to their cost. If we have more of that kind of drill—and I notice that this year in the camps at Sussex there was more of it—we would have greater efficiency in active service. We must get out of the old ruts, and in order to get good officers we require to make the service less expensive. We should have cheaper uniforms for the officers and get rid of the high collar and 'ha, ha' business altogether, and come down to business. We will then have an effective force. If we were attacked from the outside we would have to resort to the same sort of tactics which have proved so effective in the case of the Boers. Let us have more drill along that line and make the men good rifle shots. Let us do away with the parade movement and all that sort of thing and make the drill more effective.

Mr. INGRAM. I cannot speak from experience as a military man, but I have followed carefully the discussions on military matters during many years, and have come to the conclusion that it is very important. In looking over the reports of the superintendent of military stores I find that he draws the attention of the militia throughout the country to the fact that the Lee-Enfield rifles are liable to get out of repairs. Has the government taken any steps to correct that defect?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I believe that the parts of the Lee-Enfield rifle are not interchangeable, but it is equally true that each rifle being numbered, any part that is lost can be replaced. We have in our service very good armourers, educated specially for the work, and we propose, when the rifles are issued to all the rural battalions, to instruct those who are in charge of them that special and frequent inspections will be made to see that the rifles are properly cared for. Of course bonds have to be given by the officers for the safe keeping of these rifles, for the care of which they are paid out of the public fund.

Mr. INGRAM. Take the contingent we sent from Canada to South Africa, did those armourers, engaged by the department, pay strict attention to the arms supplied to the different troops that went to that country?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I think so.

Mr. INGRAM. I have a document here, which has not been furnished to me by any officer of the department or any man in-