

this country is in the direction of educating and training efficient officers and drill masters. I think that with a small trained force, smaller even than what we have at the present time, and with officers capable of taking recruits and drilling them, the best interests of the country will be served. This discussion on military matters must have reference to difficulties of some kind in which we may possibly be involved in the future. It cannot be contended that, owing to popular outbreaks in certain localities, from the peculiar circumstances in those localities, the Dominion of Canada is, in the course of the future, likely to become involved in any very large military operations. The only nation with which we are at all likely to come into collision is of course the nation to the south of us; and I think, speaking in the least moderate manner of our population and resources and abilities, it is quite idle for this Dominion to pretend that we are spending money with any idea of being able to cope with that populous and wealthy nation.

Mr. DENISON. I quite disagree with you.

Mr. FLINT. I think the military idea in Canada should be discouraged rather than encouraged. While I agree that a military organization, with skeleton regiments and an efficient staff, together with military schools, and, possibly, the annual drill of a small number of men, with the view of making drill-masters and officers, ought to be the true policy of the Administration, there ought not to be any idea entertained that the people of the country will be disposed, without stronger reasons than have hitherto been given, to place at the disposal of the Government any larger sums for these purposes than are now voted by Parliament. I think, however, from the discussions which have already taken place in this House, and the further ideas that will be placed at the disposal of the Minister of Militia by experts, that it is within the bounds of possibility that greater efficiency will be secured, even with the funds already at his disposal, than we have at the present time. I desire to express my high appreciation of the Militia Department, and with regard to the small local corps with which I am acquainted, I desire to say that I believe they have in the main received such encouragement from the Government as has contributed very much to their efficiency; and I am gratified, as a private citizen, to notice the compliments paid that small force by those who have visited our neighbourhood, from time to time, to inspect them. I will heartily concur in any legislation to bring about greater efficiency, providing it does not involve any considerable increase in the general expenditure.

Mr. BOWELL. I desire to say a few words in answer to the remarks of my hon. friend the member for Colchester, with reference to the granting of passes to volunteers from Halifax to Bedford over the Intercolonial Railway. The hon. gentleman, on behalf of his constituents, the volunteers who are in the habit of attending the annual shooting matches at that place, applied for passes on the grounds he has stated. I made enquiry of the department, and was informed that passes were not granted upon any authority from headquarters. No doubt my hon. friend has been informed differently, but it is certainly without the knowledge of the authorities here that these men were allowed free passage. However, I will make still further

Mr. FLINT.

enquiry into the matter. I may say that I fully concur in the remarks made by that hon. gentleman and others, that if the permission to travel free were given to any portion of the volunteers of Nova Scotia, it ought to be extended to all the others. My hon. friend said that I coolly referred him to the Minister of Militia. I know there had been correspondence between the Department of Railways and Canals and the Militia Department on this subject; and as far back as the time when Sir Charles Tupper had charge of the Railway Department he, at the instance of the Minister of Militia, reduced the rates, and the matter stands in that position at present. With reference to the suggestion made by the hon. member for Cumberland, and others, that the road should be placed at the disposal of all volunteers and militiamen travelling over it, that is a matter which would require very serious consideration. It is very well to say that because it is a government railway, it costs nothing; but the same argument would apply with the same force to the carrying of the mails. You might as well say that there is no necessity for charging the Post Office Department for carrying the mails, because that is only taking out of one pocket and putting in the other. I do not see why the Militia Department should not pay the fares of the volunteers when they are carried over our railway, as well the Postmaster General for the carriage of postal matter; but if that system were adopted, my hon. colleague would have to ask for a larger appropriation, and I have no doubt, if the generosity of his colleagues would lead them to give it to him, he would willingly spend it. If, however, he were called on to pay the passages of those volunteers who live along the line of the Intercolonial Railway, I do not see how he could refuse to pay for those who travel over the Grand Trunk Railway and other railways in other parts of the Dominion. This is a matter which must receive the attention of the department, as regards applying the one rule to all volunteers whether they live in Halifax or in other sections. Before sitting down, I desire to dissent *in toto* from the remarks of the hon. member for Yarmouth. I have no sympathy with the sentiment he expressed. If there is any logic in his reasoning, I cannot understand how it is he advocates the expenditure of one cent on the militia. To be consistent, he should oppose the expenditure of a dollar on the force. If his idea is correct, that in case of any difficulty with the country to the south of us, against which powerful and wealthy nation, he says, it is absurd to suppose that we could do anything, then we ought not to spend anything. But, Sir, the militia of Canada in the past have proved that they are quite capable of defending their homes and hearths; and I believe that if, unfortunately, which I trust may never occur, they should ever be called upon to do what their forefathers did, they will be quite prepared to defend their homes against any invader. It is not logical for gentlemen to stand up in this House and urge expenditure to perfect our militiamen, and then, in the same breath, tell us that no possible good can result therefrom. I am not prepared, if the hon. gentleman is, in case we are threatened, no matter from what part of the world, to throw up the sponge and cry *peccavi*. I do not think that is the spirit which actuates the people of Canada, and