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Militia Expenses.

The blue-book giving the public accounts of Canada for the year ended 30th June, 1892, is now out, and a summary of the expenditure on the Militia proper, and on military matters in general, may be of interest.

These run as follows :

Ammunition.....	\$ 54,946 76
Batteries of Garrison Artillery.....	195,269 77
Brigade Majors.....	13,684 80
Clothing.....	86,250 46
Contingencies.....	38,882 38
Cavalry and Infantry Schools.....	283,896 61
Care and maintenance of Military properties.	31,370 12
Construction and repairs of military properties	63,680 79
Dominion of Canada Rifle Association.....	10,000 00
Do Artillery Association.....	2,000 00
Drill Instruction.....	36,314 15
Drill Pay.....	251,125 70
Improved rifle ordnance.....	1,713 55
Military Branch and district staff.....	17,583 32
Do Stores.....	50,205 81
New kilted battalion in Toronto.....	5,000 00
Public Armouries.....	59,884 52
Royal Military College.....	63,949 31
Monuments for battlefields.....	50 00
Provincial Rifle Range at Sussex, N. B.....	500 00
	\$1,266 308 05

The corresponding figures for the previous twelve months (1st July, 1890 to 30th June, 1891), were :

Ammunition.....	53,672 64
Batteries of Garrison Artillery.....	178,535 64
Brigade Majors.....	14,209 42
Clothing.....	73,456 39
Contingencies.....	39,200 17
Cavalry and Infantry Schools.....	281,119 74
Care and maintenance of Military properties.	27,662 81
Construction and repairs do	79,291 36
Dominion of Canada Rifle Association.....	10,000 00
Do Artillery do	2,000 00
Drill Instruction.....	35,996 50
Drill Pay.....	272,098 37
Military Branch and District Staff.....	17,223 27
Do Stores.....	64,871 12

Public Armouries.....	60,927 93
Royal Military College.....	69,248 29
	\$1,279,513 65

Against these disbursements we have the following items of revenue for the two years :—

1890-1.	
Extra Ammunition.....	\$ 14,013 27
Stores and Clothing.....	2,762 41
Miscellaneous revenue.....	618 18
Rent of Military properties.....	4,657 50
Royal Military College.....	21,306 91
	\$ 43,358 27
1891-2.	
Extra Ammunition.....	\$ 11,722 27
Stores and Clothing.....	3,963 39
Miscellaneous Revenue.....	1,556 59
Rent of Military properties.....	4,450 78
Royal Military College.....	18,679 62
	\$ 40,372 65

The actual net outlay therefore, is :

1890-91.....	\$1,236,155 38
1891-2.....	1,225,935 40

These figures are moderate enough, in all conscience, considering the variety of interests they cover. They provide for the maintenance of a small but thoroughly efficient permanent force of about 1,000 men, the expenses a military college, which sends out each year a class of young men who, whether in Canada or in the Imperial service, bear a deservedly high reputation for military and scientific efficiency; and covers all items connected with the pay, maintenance and equipment of our volunteer militia. The trouble is that the sum is far too small. The geographical situation of Canada—with a long frontier abutting on the domain of a power which has always been singularly hostile to this country—an extended coast-line on both Atlantic and Pacific to arm and guard from attack—alone demands a system of defence far more complete than that which at present exists. At the very least, two million dollars should be annually devoted to defensive interests. The present cheese-paring policy is really a very costly one, as, by the necessary retention of obsolete weapons and equipment and the lack of encouragement to rural corps, it renders useless much of the whole system, and thus simply throws money away.

The small percentage which the annual pay for drill training constitutes of the whole sum spent, will surprise many. This is the item that wants to be materially increased and the country will never have a good rural force to depend on unless better pay is given the rank and file, especially in the way of encouragement to men who return to camp two or more years. Drill instruction (\$36,214.15) is an item that will stand considerable question. Undoubtedly a large proportion of this money is wasted each year from the fact that in so many instances the instruction is left in the hands of officers who possess few of the qualifications necessary for an instructor.

Two items appear in the 1891-2 list which are hopeful precedents for future grants from the same source; these are the grants for the 48th Highlanders and for the New Brunswick Provincial range. Some of our local governments have been fairly generous in the way of financial aid to provincial military institutions; others, such as that of Quebec, are mean and penurious to a degree. It is unnecessary to point out that the militia of each province has a strong moral claim on its local government for generous help towards objects connected with the improvement of the force, and that pro-