

duty, is what is required. There is no fault to find with the instruction that is given, or the style of men that the schools turn out, but they must extend their sphere of action, and be more alive to their proper and legitimate duties, or the consequences will be serious. There are various and obvious ways in which an improvement can be effected, and they are respectfully suggested to the consideration of the authorities.

Of the military college at Kingston, which is also a charge upon the militia, one would desire to speak in the most respectful terms. As a school for the training of young men it is, perhaps, the best in the Dominion, and as such, as well as in some respects peculiar to itself, it is of great service to the country. But the question may fairly be asked: Of what practical benefit is it to the militia? That, under certain circumstances, it might be a benefit, will be readily admitted, but is there no way in which it could be made a direct benefit under existing circumstances? Could not its methods of instruction be made available for the active force? Could it not in other ways be brought more into direct connection with it? These are questions which are also submitted for the consideration of the minister and his advisers.

The foregoing remarks—brief and necessarily imperfect, written in no spirit of partizanship, and, it is hoped, without prejudice—are based upon an experience of nearly thirty years' connection with the active force, during which time the writer has had more than ordinary opportunities of observing the merits, as well as the demerits, of the present system. His object has been not unduly to exalt that system, but, believing it is the one best suited to the country, to show how it can be improved and rendered more effective; not going into details, but pointing out the principles by which this can be brought about. That, in order to accomplish anything,

some increase of expenditure will be required, is admitted. But the increased expenditure will greatly increase the value of what is now spent, and largely wasted; and with the increased expenditure that in some respects is required, reductions in others may be effected.

One question of importance—to which attention has been drawn by General Herbert—the distinction between the rural and urban portions of the force, has not been touched upon, and what has been said refers almost entirely to the former. As at present constituted, the city battalions partake more of the nature of military clubs than of a working force. This is not said by way of disparagement either of the system on which they are conducted, or of the spirit which animates them, but because it is clear that on active service, while the spirit would remain, the system would be no longer practicable; the whole force would necessarily be placed upon the same footing, and the distinction between the two branches which now exists would at once disappear. At the same time, it does seem invidious that the rural battalions should be in an inferior position, as regards drill and training, to their city comrades, and, therefore, necessarily appear at a disadvantage when brought together. This is one of the many changes for the better that drilling the whole force annually would effect.

There are many minor matters in connection with the force upon which a great deal might be said. Arms are obsolete, and largely defective from long and often careless usage. The clothing might be much improved, and with economy, too; and of the equipment it is no exaggeration to say that it is almost useless. A new rifle is required, the simpler and more easily managed the better, and a new rifle would certainly involve equipment to match. The clothing, as far as it goes, is all right, but a working suit for camp and fatigue duties, suitable to