

In Parliament.

WE resume our account of the discussion of the militia estimates in the Commons on the 3rd inst., where we were obliged to leave off last week.

The item \$60,000 for armories and care of arms passed without a word. On the item of \$40,000 for drill instruction and \$250,000 for drill and training, Mr. Casey said the former amount was practically devoted to indemnify captains for their expenses, and thought it should be put under a changed heading. The Minister said the Department had reduced the amount to \$20 per company in cases where the corps had not drilled, but he thought that some allowance to help c.o.'s. to defray their expenses was only right. Mr. Casey thought so too, but the heading should show how the money was spent, and it was not for drill instruction. Col. O'Brien thought the \$40 per company should be given for drill instruction under conditions by which the country would get value for it. Now a man who never drills his company is as well treated as another who drills at every opportunity, but it would be easy to allot the money proportionately to the efficiency as shown in camp, on the same principle as the capitation grant to volunteers in England, and captains should show that they do something for their money in years that they do not go to camp. It was unfair to drill and pay the city corps every year and put the rural men, equally good material, in so inferior a position. He also complained that rural c.o.'s. had no control over the payments to their captains so that one not notoriously inefficient was equally well paid with the best. The item passed.

On the next item of \$38,000 for contingencies, including grants to artillery and rifle associations and bands, Mr. Davies asked why the P. E. I. team of 1885 to the D. R. A. matches had to travel second-class while the other maritime men had first-class tickets; and why in 1886 the P. E. I. men had only second-class single fares while the others, had double firsts. He thought there should be a distinct understanding that the men travelling to these matches should have passes over the Intercolonial Railway. Sir Adolphe Caron explained that the D. R. A. was not under militia control, but as its aims were considered important, the department had aided competitors from the Maritime provinces. Mr. Tupper joined in pressing the matter on the government. The men should not be dependent on any one department for transport, but should have passes by the authority of the whole government. The riflemen made considerable sacrifices, and deserved encouragement. Mr. Weldon endorsed this view. Mr. Jones backed up the riflemen's claims, and said there should be no necessity for a week's negotiations before passages were provided. Mr. Pope said his department would make no change. Competitors from Ontario and Manitoba had to pay their way, and so should the Maritime men. He would grant reduced rates. Mr. Davies suggested they had to pay their way for a long distance in any case. Mr. Tupper said free passes were always granted on government roads in Australia to the services.

Mr. Casey suggested, with regard to grants to rifle associations, that the grants should be in proportion to the work done, of which proof should be given, and that nominal rolls should be furnished of the several memberships, as he believed the same men obtained grants as members of several associations. He instanced Ottawa, where he said there were the Wimbledon association and the Guards' association, and two of other battalions, all said to be largely composed of the same individuals. Some of these grants might be saved, and applied to other places. The Minister said the grants were proportioned to the membership, and he did not believe the abuse reputed existed.

The grants to the D. R. A. and D. A. A. elicited no comment.

On the item of \$59,000 for the R. M. C., Sir R. Cartwright asked concerning certain fines of \$100 exacted for some cadets who left the college to take Imperial commissions before completing their course. Sir Adolphe said the college had the right to collect these fines, but as to collecting them from those who had refused to pay the Department of Justice doubted the power of the College. Sir Richard wanted to know who did pay, and who refused. as, for the credit of the college, all should be treated alike. The Minister promised the papers within a few days.

Col. Denison suggested giving three or four civil service positions to passed cadets. If the best men had the choice of the C. S. or the army it would be a good thing.

Mr. Jones explained how Imperial commissions first came to be offered, and said the R. M. C. graduates entered on a better footing as to training than Imperial cadets, but he thought it was not in the interest of Canada to allow cadets who had not completed their course to take commissions, as had been done lately. The college must maintain public confidence, which would not be the case if untrained men issued from its classes. He thought the civil service should be opened to graduates. The P. W. D. and Railways and Canals seemed specially fitted to provide posts for young engineers. Thus a trained civil service could be gradually formed. If graduates went to the States, or

even in large numbers entered the Imperial service, the largest proportion of the money spent in the college was thrown away. The Minister agreed with Mr. Jones' sentiments, and explained that the Imperial service took a large number of cadets last year well knowing their standing in the college. Graduates were employed in the civil service—one in the technical branch of his own department, several as officers in the active militia, and the mounted police, and some in the large railway companies and industrial establishments in Canada. If too much consideration were given to graduates it might create dissatisfaction. Col. Amyot saw no use in the college. It would have been better and cheaper to educate the cadets in England. But when a military college was demanded in the interests of the rich it was granted; when a school was desired for a much more useful class than the military there was no money for it. The marine school at Quebec was kept up by the Local government, when it chiefly concerned the Federal authorities. Capt. Labelle said he had seen the Minister of Marine about a school of navigation and thought the government should establish another at Sorel. Sir Richard Cartwright said the Minister had lost the point of Mr. Jones' suggestion, that positions in the civil service should be given, not indiscriminately, but as prizes to the best graduates, like the Imperial commissions. If an equal or greater number of places in the service of Canada were similarly offered it would enable that service to secure the best men. The very entrance examination to the R. M. C. was a guarantee that the cadets would be a picked class. Mr. Casey suggested the outside service as the preferable branch, so that the graduates' military knowledge could be utilized at need without crippling the departments. He also thought no one but graduates should be appointed to adjutantries, and that they should be paid, thus utilizing the college and increasing the efficiency of the force. Mr. Jones thought the college training would be invaluable in furnishing us with commanders in case of need. West Pointers had invariably come to the front in the American rebellion. Italy spent large sums in educating her sons who had emigrated to South America; it would be better to reduce the cost of training the men and increase that of educating commanders. Mr. Casey wound up the debate by reiterating and elaborating his views.

On the item of \$482,700 for permanent corps Sir Richard Cartwright enquired what the increase of \$47,000 was required for. The Minister explained that it was for the London school. Mr. Ellis drew attention to the difference in the charge for medicines for the several schools, and was promised details. Mr. Casey complained that Col. Holmes was paid \$2,920 a year for—as he put it—commanding Sergt. Kinsella—he should be paid as other D.A.G.'s.

Sir Adolphe said arrangements had been made by which Imperial marine pensioners would be sent out to form the battery. It was impossible to pay men in B. C. more than elsewhere without changing the law, and the labor market was so high that at the usual rates they could not be got to serve. Mr. Casey objected again to this salary paid Col. Holmes, as well as to the policy of importing worn-out pensioners to form the battery. Mr. Baker thought the amount of a D.A.G.'s salary should be charged against that vote, instead of C battery. He showed that besides those duties, Col. Holmes had organized a school of instruction and qualified several officers and n.c.o.'s. The Minister explained that the pensioners were not old men, but men of the reserve, and the very pick of England's trained artillerymen. Mr. Casey then read from the Militia report, showing that Col. Holmes had only 261 men in his district, of whom only 90 turned up at muster parade, and he read extracts from that officer's report to prove the limited nature of drill performed, and the dilapidated state of the armament in B.C.

On the item of \$3,000 for improved rifle ordnance Sir Richard Cartwright wanted to know how much that amount would buy. The Minister said the amount would purchase two 64-prs. and it was in the interest of Canada to buy a couple every year. Two were now in Quebec, one in Kingston and one was required in the Maritime provinces for training purposes. Sir Richard said for training they might be of use, but against modern armor they would be futile. Sir Adolphe said the inspector of artillery recommended these guns.

On the item of \$10,000 for drill sheds and rifle ranges, Mr. Burdette asked what proportion of that sum was intended for Belleville, and if no part of it what sum would be placed in the supplementary estimates for the purpose of accommodating the 15th battalion?

The Minister said the department would contribute its due proportion provided the municipality did its share also. Except in places where the force was very large the amount allowed by Government was regulated by the grant which the municipality made. Mr. Burdette thought this case was exceptional as his district contributed a large quota to the force, and the 15th battalion company of the Midland had two of its officers wounded at Batoche, and the municipalities had spent so much on railroads since assumed by Government that they could ill afford to subscribe for a drill shed. He also objected to the country importing pensioners (alluding to the proposal to man C battery). Canada could provide and