

of that force being of any use have been either very ignorant or very insincere. The Sedentary Militia has never, it is true, been by its nature essentially effective as a moveable force, available under all circumstances. No, doubtless, since the services rendered by the Sedentary Militia have generally been of another kind, but they have not, for that, been less important. It has always been the officers of that arm who have made the Militia Rolls and Returns; and who, in time of war, have called out or drawn by lot the men required to fill up the Incorporated Militia, and, in either case, have marched them to Head Quarters. Above all, it has always been they who, using the moral influence they derived from their position in society, have smoothed away the difficulties which have arisen from time to time when contingents were required to be raised. These old and influential men were they who brought the mutinous, when there were any, to respect authority and listen to reason. In one word, it has been by their influence that the authorities have been able, in times of trouble, to secure obedience and submission to law. What, then, must be thought of the wisdom of that policy which, in the organization of the public defence, puts aside so powerful an engine and replaces it by that most ineffective one, and most unpopular in every locality—the Municipal Assessors!

By my Bill the duties of the Sedentary Militia will be the same as they have been in times past; it will always be by the agency of the Sedentary Militia that the contingents for the Service Militia will be furnished to the Commander in Chief.

In order to keep the Sedentary Militia distinct from the Service Force, it is provided that in future no person who has not attained the age of forty-five years shall be appointed an officer in the Sedentary Militia. By this means the appointment of officers to serve in the Sedentary Militia will not diminish the numbers of the Service Militiamen; and by their age and their position in society those appointed will be able to discharge more effectually the duties required of them. It has often happened that young men have procured commissions in the Sedentary Militia for the sole purpose of thereby obtaining exemption from Active Service, and from being drawn by ballot. Under the provisions of this Bill such a thing will become impossible.

And now, what is asked of the country in return for the numerous and important services which the officers of the Sedentary Militia are called upon to render? A few grades of purely honorary rank. Have not these men always performed the duties required of them gratuitously, and have they not