

first rank. The present system, then, is not only very expensive, but is a system which practically defeats the object in view. Under the old system, young men attending colleges, putting in their winters at various centres where the system of training and examination obtained, were able to qualify in considerable numbers and then return to the country, and become centres for diffusing the military education acquired by them in this way. Thus there were gradually scattered throughout the country a great many young men ready to take commands whenever vacancies occurred. To-day, how many, in comparison, can qualify? I have not got the figures; but if it is to-day, as I understand, the rule that a man must give up his whole calling and go into barracks for the time being, how many men in our country are able to afford that? The system now in existence discriminates against a great army of industrious people with callings that demand their whole time. It prevents graduates and undergraduates of our various colleges taking practical advantage of the system, and it limits the number. The old system was elastic and inexpensive, and almost any person of industrious habits could, without loss of a day, qualify himself to take command of a company, or even of a regiment. Now, it is only those who are out of employment, or who can so arrange their affairs that they can for the time being give up their ordinary calling, or those with means, who are able to take advantage of this system. The system, therefore, appears to be entirely failing to accomplish the object in view, that of disseminating a military knowledge throughout the Dominion; and it is in addition, absorbing a large portion of the money that should go for the maintenance of the rural battalions. Under these circumstances, I, for one, will be pleased to learn whether the Minister of Militia has considered this question, and if so, whether he is prepared to give his opinion to the committee.

Mr. DENISON. I am glad that the hon. member for York (Mr. Mulock) has made this suggestion, because it is the plan that I suggested some two or three years ago. I then proposed to revert, more or less, to the old system, or to engraft the old system of schools, if possible, on the present. I explained then my reasons somewhat in the line just taken by the hon. member. I also then showed that very few men could go through on account of the difficulties of leaving their business. There are also other objections, one of which is that a man has either to go in as an officer and go to the expense of purchasing his uniform, or else he has to enter the ranks and attend school, either as a non-commissioned officer or as a private.

Mr. DICKEY. I would suggest to the committee whether, with the view of saving time, we should not let this question lie

Mr. MULOCK.

over, because it will have to be gone over again at a subsequent period. When the Estimates for 1895-96 come up, I shall be called upon to state the policy of the Government as regards the future. This is a vote simply to provide money for the current year, and although a discussion at the present time would probably be quite regular, still I am afraid that if now we have to go into it, the discussion will be repeated on the main Estimates.

Mr. MULOCK. Why not take the discussion now as well as any other time?

Mr. DICKEY. I am quite content to do so, but I think we shall have to go over it all again. I am quite satisfied to briefly state what my own ideas are, but for the sake of the committee, I desire to postpone a long discussion on the whole system at this stage.

Mr. DENISON. There is something in what the hon. Minister has said, but any remarks I make now it will not be necessary to repeat afterwards. As I shall occupy only a short time, I may as well conclude the remarks I was about to offer. I was going on to point out the advantages of the old system, and I hope the Minister will look into it, and have an inquiry made and see what can be done. There is no doubt that under the present system we do not get as much advantage from the schools as we ought to obtain; when I say the schools, I refer to the permanent corps, in the expense of which there has been a steady increase for years past. For the ordinary militia about \$290,000 have been appropriated each year, that is, for the drilling of the militia proper. While that amount was greater during the seventies, since about 1880 the expenditure has remained practically stationary, or at about \$290,000. The total amount appropriated for the whole militia has somewhat increased, and now it is in the neighbourhood of \$1,300,000. What I complain of is, that while the ordinary militia estimate has been reduced and curtailed, and the militia more or less starved, the difference has been expended, I might almost say lavishly, in increasing the permanent corps. There is no doubt that the militia expenditure proper, the amount expended on the men of the force, is a popular expenditure, in fact there is no more popular expenditure than that made on the militia of Canada, but we must not allow the whole amount of the estimate gradually to be diverted from the regular militia, and be expended in paying a staff and permanent corps.

It being Six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

Mr. DENISON. When six o'clock was called, I was endeavouring to point out to