

but very often we find that rural corps are not ordered to camp the second year, and the drill becomes biennial. Frequently, some of the corps are not found in camp for three, or four, and, perhaps five years. Last year I heard one hon. gentleman say that his regiment had not been out for six years. I feel satisfied that we should have annual drill and that a period of twelve days is quite short enough. Remarks were made last evening that we had only ten days of drill, that two days were lost in marching in and out of camp, but I contend that these two days are profitably employed. The soldiers are taught the drill of marching on board the train, and of pitching and striking their tents, and whilst they are in camp for the ten days, they are actively employed from early morn until dewy eve, up to ten o'clock at night. There is no time lost, and when they return, as I know from experience of the last camp, the men were so well drilled that they felt they were quite equal, and I felt myself that they were all but equal, to regularly trained soldiers. When we find that two years elapse before they are brought into camp again, many of these men are so wanting or non-possessed of the drill they had learned, that they are as awkward as if they had never been put through drill before. I quite agree with the remarks of one of the gentlemen who spoke last night with regard to the training of children and young men in the common day schools. I feel that a very great deal of the time that now is occupied by children at physical exercise, known as recess, could be profitably employed in the training of these children to a knowledge of military drill, such as position, marching, facings, formation of sections, sub-divisions, and, I may say, ordinary company drill. They could be taught this within the building, or outside, weather permitting, for say, fifteen or twenty minutes each day, and thus form a miniature army, physically beneficial and practically most essential, as it would place the children in that position that they would move along with an easy and graceful carriage and with a martial-like, soldierly-bearing that would show its effects in after years. We would feel that these youths, receiving military instruction in that way, both theory and practice being imparted to them, would not be unmindful of that tuition or knowledge when they grew up; and as soldiers going into camp or in ordinary drill, would be more apt to receive instruction from their superior officers than if they had never received any in the schools. I strongly urge that some measure be taken whereby training may be given in that way at the day schools. Thus we should have a nucleus at all times for the regular army, and recruits could, with very little instruction or training, be placed in a position to be ready for active service. I urge strongly, I repeat, that instead of having biennial drill, we should have annual drill of not less than twelve days.

Mr. FLINT. A few minutes ago, while another item was under consideration, I intended to make some remarks on the general subject of the expenditure on the militia service. We have had several interesting discussions in this House, participated in largely by gentlemen connected with the military force; and, as one who knows scarcely anything of the technicalities of this question, I listened with a great deal of interest, and I may add instruction,

to those discussions. We are aware, however, that there is a tendency among specialists of all kinds to get gradually into their mind a strong prepossession in favour of their particular hobby; and I am afraid that, in connection with the present organization of the forces in Canada, there is a strong tendency among military officers, a natural tendency, no doubt, to look almost entirely on one side of this important subject. I am glad, however, that the Government has been able hitherto to resist the strong pressure put upon them by the militia officers, accompanied with a great deal of earnestness, ability, and I believe patriotism, to extend the operations of the Militia Department and to add to the expenditures in connection with the militia force. It is gratifying to know that this year there is on the whole a decrease in the estimates for militia purposes. Though knowing what I do, and after hearing these discussions, I would not advocate any further reduction in the militia estimates, yet I would say as a layman, that I believe that on the part of a large number of the people of this country who do not sympathize with the militia officers on this subject, there is and will be a strong feeling of opposition to any further increase in our militia expenditure. I will not go into any of the details dwelt upon by several of the hon. gentlemen who have spoken, as to how best to administer the very generous fund which Parliament has placed at the disposal of the department. This fund has increased quite rapidly, from 1874 to 1879 it was on the average in the neighbourhood of \$700,000; and we all know that in the discussion of the financial affairs of the country during that period, the Administration of that day were severely criticized for the slight increase which they made from time to time in the militia expenditure.

Mr. DENISON. It is very little more than it was at Confederation.

Mr. FLINT. A certain amount of increase is almost inevitable in consequence of the development of the country; but that expenditure, large as it was and criticized as it was, continued to increase during the next period. It increased on the average something over \$50,000 per annum; and at the present time we are spending on the average about \$1,250,000 a year. Now, I think the Militia Department—and I tender the advice with all deference to the opinion of the militia officers and the specialists in that department—will do well to make their arrangements with regard to perfecting the efficiency of the department, with reference to the view that it is very inadvisable to ask for any appreciable increase in the appropriation. There has been a great deal of discussion, and of a valuable character, in regard to annual drill or biennial drill; and I must say that I have been very much impressed in favour of an annual drill. But I think that some means must be employed by which a smaller number of men may be drilled annually; and a saving must be effected in some other direction in order to keep the appropriation within the present figure. I think the arguments for annual drill are almost unanswerable; and as a layman I would only say, from what I have learned in this discussion and from other sources, that, in my opinion, which I think is concurred in by a great many persons who do not profess to be technically informed on military matters, the true policy of