

now have are ten or fifteen years behind the age. They are of no use, compared with the modern arm with which soldiers of other countries are armed. Another point is in relation to the medicine furnished to the troops. At the camp at London last season all the medicine could be bought up for \$5. I know, as a matter of fact, that men who are receiving only 50 cents a day had to go to the city and pay more than \$1.50 to buy medicine for themselves. The officers did not have it, and it was not there for them. The officers have spoken to me on the subject, and I think I have only to mention the matter to the Minister to have that fault remedied. When men are taken away, as these volunteers are, to London and other places, the change in living, the season of the year, and many other things, combine to bring on sickness of a temporary character. They have to be attended to, but unless the medicine chest is ample and well supplied, these men have to pay for what is required out of their own pockets, or the offices have to pay it for them. I have been spoken to on this matter both by officers and by men, and I feel sure that I have only to bring it to the notice of the Minister to have it attended to.

Mr. O'BRIEN. This is the most important item of the Militia vote. I agree with a great deal that has been said by the last speaker. We know there is no member of this House more thoroughly alive to the needs of the men and the force than the Minister himself. I am certain that if he had it in his power he would lose no time in taking measures that the whole force, or a great majority of it, should be drilled every year, and until that is done it must be admitted that a great deal of our money is wasted. With regard to the pay of the men, I may remark that it is impossible to pay men who join the active force the same ratio of wages that is paid to those in civil pursuits, nor do I think it is necessary for us to do so, because I believe there are many men who are willing to enter the force and remain in it for much less pay than they would get in civil pursuits. But the great evil of the present system is this, that the recruit and the drilled man are placed upon the same footing. What we can do without incurring a much greater expense is to place the drilled man upon a better footing than the recruit. As I said on a former occasion, with regard to the allowances given to captains of companies, we ought to give payment according to results—that all the men who go to camp and who have attained a certain degree of efficiency should get increased pay as compared with those who have not attained that efficiency. The same examination would test whether the captain had, during the year, qualified himself to receive an allowance, and would also test the number of men in his own company who were entitled to receive pay as efficient. That is done in the old country, where every man in the volunteer force is placed on the same footing, and after he has attained a certain qualification he is entitled to a certain capitulation grant. That might be done in our force. Every man who goes to camp, and who can show by examination before staff officers that he is in a certain position as regards annual drill, should be placed in a better position than the man who has just come to-day and may go to-morrow. We want more stability in our force, we want to give it more reality, and in order to induce the men to remain in the force, we must put the man who has attended last year, and who is willing to attend this year, and who intends to attend next year, in a better position than the man who merely joins to-day because it happens to suit him and will be away next drill day. The force can be made more efficient in this respect by putting every corps, when it comes to camp, through a certain course of examination, testing not only the officers but the men, and if a certain proportion have attained a certain degree of efficiency, the captain should get a better allowance, because

it will be evident that he has done something to earn it, and the men who have attained that degree of efficiency ought to get additional pay as compared with those who have not. That will also give an extra inducement to men to join the force. The cause of weakness is not so much the amount of pay as the unfair way in which it is distributed. Then we ought to arrive at that position in which the whole force will be drilled every year. There is undoubtedly a great waste of money at present. I would like to call the attention of the Minister to the consideration, that while the old Provinces at present are naturally expected to bear the chief burden of defence of this country, we are forming great Provinces in the west where the maintenance of a certain force will become not only desirable but necessary. We cannot therefore expect the force of this country always to remain in the same proportion to the population that it is at present. Therefore, if we are further to incur a greater expenditure upon Militia, we must apportion it according to population, and if we extend our force, as we must do in the North-West, we must also look for a certain diminution of it in the old Provinces, all of which tends to a rearrangement of our forces in regard to the amount of money to be expended. Until we arrive at the conclusion to make such an expenditure as will drill the whole force, our system must be considered very incomplete. One of the greatest troubles of the officers commanding regiments is, that they never know when their regiments will be called out for service. Upon that point there ought to be no doubt. Every officer commanding a battalion ought to know that upon a certain day in a certain month his regiment will go to camp. If that is understood, when employers of labour make contracts, they will know beforehand that such a man belongs to the force and that at such a period he will have to loose so many days in camp. But now, when a man makes a contract at so many dollars per month, and when the man comes to him and says that he must go to camp for a certain number of days, the employer very likely will object to losing his services and may think that he has been unfairly dealt with. But, the man is under orders to go, and he has to go or else he is responsible for the penalties. But, if it was known beforehand that he was going, then no such misunderstanding could arise; both could be aware of the fact and make their contract accordingly. I have been asked by several persons connected with my regiment: "Are we going to camp this year?" I can give them no answer on this point. But there ought to be no uncertainty. It ought to be known absolutely that a certain corps is going to drill at a certain period. I desire also to call the Minister's attention to the fact that a large amount of money might be saved by a reorganization of the military districts. The second military district in which I am, extends from the north shore of Georgian Bay to Lake Erie. Men are called on to spend an unnecessary amount of time in going to and from camp; it is contrary to all strategical considerations, and great inconvenience as well as loss of time arises. Another consideration is this: Under the present system, the rural and city battalions are separated from each other, not only as regards drill, but in other respects, so as to place them on an entirely different footing. Country battalions never see suburban battalions, and *vice versa*. This should not be, and camps should be so arranged, and might be so arranged, that when a district is called to go to camp, the rural battalions should be called on to take part in the movements. In that way a certain sympathy would be called forth between them. The great thing, however, to be arrived at is, absolute certainty as to the time and duration of the drill, so that both employers and employees, when they make a contract for labour, can understand at what time the camp will be held, and that every man belonging to the camp will be expected to attend.