

who is really the one who should decide what will suit his plans best. They work the Dominion politicians through the local heelers. These men do not talk of the splendid camping and manoeuvring ground the vacant lots next the town will make. They say that it is only right that some portion of the public money should be spent in their town. It will make friends for the party in the next election, besides "we have," as one of them once said to an M. P., "to keep Jamie——solid next election." The camp goes there and the commandant is instructed to award the Jamies the contract for supplies regardless of the price.

A member of THE GAZETTE staff was at one of these politically selected camps. The medical authorities opposed the location and the commandant said there was not enough ground for movements. But the local politicians had the pull. There was no adequate supply of water and holes were dug in the edge of the swamp. Nearly every man had diarrhoea, and after the camp there were three deaths from typhoid.

And still Sir Mackenzie Bowell says politics do not interfere in any way in military affairs.

Military men should be allowed full authority to select the ground for the camps and must not be interfered with by the politicians.

MUNICIPAL GRANTS TO THE MILITIA.

Some Ontario counties are doing grand work for the force. They give a grant of 25c. per day to each officer and man in their local corps who puts in his annual drill. We are not aware that any county in the other provinces does as much. Besides this, these same counties give annual grants of \$50 to \$200 for the purchase of prizes for the annual rifle matches. They have also been known to purchase a supply of helmets, or bushies, for the N.C.O. and men. It may be added that most of these same counties give a sum of money annually to the Provincial Rifle Association.

The County Council of Halton the other day voted 25c. per day to every man who goes from that county to drill with the 20th Lorne Rifles, one of the best shooting battalions in the county, but numerically weak.

We should all endeavor to interest the people in our district in the force, so that

they will always be ready to encourage it. We hope the officers in districts where the Council or citizens give grants will at once inform THE GAZETTE for publication for the information of, and to spur on, officers in other parts.

A BLIND GOVERNMENT.

AN agitation is going on at the present time in Ottawa for the establishment of a military school for officers. It is to be hoped that they will be successful in securing from that Government, from off whose body fall the requisitions of the militia force as the proverbial bullets from off the crocodile's back. As the constant drop of water wears away the rock, it is to be hoped that the Government will, before they find the rock going from underneath their feet, do something towards the furtherance of the militia force.

When the war cloud was looming over the Mother Country our "powers that be" expounded at no little length on the loyalty and devotion of the Canadians. How they would stand shoulder to shoulder to repel the one that would put a foot forward in attack. Did these exponents for a moment look behind to see whether those who would have to do the "shoulder to shoulder" were properly equipped for such an event? If they did their eyes must have been dimmed with all-night sittings and their memories a blank to the warnings that have been poured in on them from those who are in position to know "what is what" in the force. With accoutrements that are now obsolete and would be scorned by the dusky soldiers of the East, permanent regiments officered by "pulls," dissension in the ranks caused by these "pulls," equipment almost nil, and other "wants," would make a sorry sight, even although heaven's full share of loyalty was served out. It is a disgrace that such a state of matters should exist in free and loyal Canada. Before having uttered such high sounding phrases it would have met the wants of the people better if the Government had arisen and stood shoulder to shoulder in the matter of rectifying, and tried to put the force on a better footing.

As the militia force of Canada now stands it cannot be said that, in the event of trouble arising, the various regiments would be fully officered. The institution of such schools as are now in operation in Montreal are a great boon, for they not

only put life and mettle into the officers, but they also give them a preparation for the day of trouble. There is another point that also deserves the closest attention of the Government. In the event of the force being called out to the front new regiments would have to be formed from amongst loyal citizens. Such being the case, who would officer them? They could not go to the Mother Land for officers, as in all probability that same Mother Land would require all her own men. Why, then, does the Government not institute such a class that the rank and file may be brought up to such a state of proficiency that the best men would be drafted to the command of their own regiments or go to officer any new formed corps. Wealth and position do not always make the best commander, and there are many non-coms. and men in the militia of Canada to-day who would give a good account of themselves if opportunity offered.

Unless the Government come to the assistance of the militia, and that soon, they will find that they have neglected the one thing needful in bearing out their utterances on the devotion of Canada to the British Empire. They seem to be going on the old adage of making the force "make the bricks without the straw." Let the civilian, while he does not don the facings, take a stand on this question at the elections now near at hand and get from those who would sit at the Capital a pledge that they will do their utmost to bring about a better state of matters in the militia force, and let the force as one man adjust its "foresight" and prepare to meet the delinquents in this matter with a good all round fire.

THE ST. JOHN'S TROUBLE.

FOR some time back a spirit of unrest seems to have entered into the militia force of Canada. It is a deplorable state of matters that the men who have sworn allegiance to the country, and who, for the love of soldiering have gone to the trouble of taking a course at St. John's, should cause such trouble in the Service. Whether those in authority did the proper thing or not in sending the men to "shovel snow" is a question that must be put aside in the present instance: A soldier's duty is to obey, and if he thinks he has been unfairly treated there are ways and means by which he can get redress other than mutiny. The fact, too, that the men were