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With a view to greater efficiency I last year recommended that we could not afford to drill the whole 43,000 men every year for at least 16 days in camp, it would be better to face the difficulty by reducing the Active Militia by one-half commencing with the isolated companies belonging to no battalion, and then following up the plan by disbanding those battalions whose companies are so far from headquarters as to be out of reach of proper control, or at all events to maintain only their cadres. I repeat with much respect, my proposition of last year:—If the Parliamentary grant cannot be increased, I assure you that money is now being spent on many Infantry companies, not only for arms, accoutrements and clothing, but for daily pay under nominal training, which we urgently require for the portions of the force we can make certain of being efficient and ready for any emergent service. And even by reducing the present force one-half, say to 20,000 men, we have only been able, with the voted appropriation, to drill that number last year and this year at battalion and company headquarters for twelve days.

Creditably and efficiently as some of the battalions appear, even with that meagre instruction, to what can it amount in the main, towards thorough, solid efficiency as reliable soldiers? We have no schools of instruction at which the constituted teachers and instructors of these men can learn. They do all in their power by aid of books and "models," and wonderfully smart and self-possessed are many of the commanding and other officers, but in some it is the remains of instruction gained in former days, and without renewal by means of some permanent model forces, this good element can hardly be expected to endure for a long time, at least as a general rule.

Where shall we in the future go to seek company officers and sergeant instructors unless we have the means of making them qualified? How shall we be, by-and-bye, if a sudden call or service arises, and our young men are found only clothed and armed, but without discipline? Armed men without discipline and professional instruction are as dangerous to their friends as to their foes, and as we have every material and every appliance and qualification on the spot to make our force solid, substantial, real and effective, I cannot but lament the absence of sufficient means, which I doubt not Parliament will ultimately supplement.

Equally hard is it to realize in this country, full of intelligence and education, while a devastating and atrocious war is raging in the East of Europe, upon whose ramifications it is not possible at present to place a limit, why we should in this elastic and expanding country neglect to put our house in order and assure ourselves that let what may happen beyond our shores, no threatening hand shall thunder at our gates with impunity.

I watched with interest during the past summer, when men of all shades of opinion expressed themselves freely, whether any allusion would be made to the