

for Canadian volunteers, it is not the War Office that should be consulted. There should have been a royal commission before this money was spent, and the fullest inquiry into everything connected with the present state of the militia.

It is useless to spend \$3,000,000 on a volunteer force which is disorganized in other respects. When there is discontent in the ranks, when there is plotting and intriguing among officers of battalions to get rid of their superiors, giving them new equipments is not all that is required. Understand, I am not opposed to the getting of good equipment for our volunteers. I have always been the first to demand proper equipment, but I think that the volunteers themselves, and we in this House, should have a voice in saying what rifles and equipments they should get. I would ask, has the Lee-Enfield rifle been tested in active service by any portion of the British army?

MR. DICKEY—The barrel has been tested and the breech action separately.

MR. CASEY—The breech action is the same as the Lee-Metford?

MR. DICKEY—Yes.

MR. CASEY—And that has been tested in actual service?

MR. DICKEY—Yes.

MR. CASEY—Has the rifle already been used in active service?

MR. DICKEY—The Enfield barrel has, but not with the Metford-Lee breech.

MR. CASEY—I think we should have hesitated before adopting a rifle that has not been tried in active service. We know what the Lee-Metford is and what it will do in active service. I know the theory on which the claim to the superiority of the Lee-Enfield is advanced. There is a difference in the grooving. The Lee-Metford has a rifling of small ridges. The Enfield barrel, which is applied to the Lee-Enfield, has shallow grooves instead, and it is claimed that that will have a better effect than the Lee-Metford. If it has not been tried in active service or by the firing of a great many rounds, we do not know what the effect of the hard-cased bullet, which is used in this rifle, and which is coated with German silver, would have upon the shallow grooving peculiar to the Enfield rifle. I would consider, as an old user of rifles, that the shallow grooves would be apt to wear out under the strain.

MR. DICKEY—The report of the experts in connection with the War Department is that the life of the Enfield barrel, with the Lee breech action, is three times the life of the Metford barrel.

MR. O'BRIEN—That depends upon the powder.

MR. DICKEY—Under the same conditions, with the cordite ammunition.

MR. CASEY—The hon. gentleman tells me that the War Office experts say they have compared the life of the barrel with these

two different grooves. That has been experimented on in the workshops by firing a number of rounds?

MR. DICKEY—I presume so.

MR. CASEY—If that be the case, it is strange that the Lee-Enfield has not replaced the Lee-Metford in the British army.

MR. O'BRIEN—It is replacing it.

MR. CASEY—Do I understand from the hon. Minister that the Lee-Enfield is now being manufactured for the British army instead of the Lee-Metford?

MR. DICKEY—Yes.

MR. CASEY—Well, that is a question for experts. I can remember when the Martini-Henry was introduced, and knew the chairman of the committee of experts who secured the adoption of the Martini-Henry, but the opinion of experts in regard to the Martini-Henry rifle was far from being borne out by the actual performance of that rifle.

MR. DICKEY—It is a good rifle.

MR. CASEY—It is a good rifle. The point I make with regard to a Martini-Henry is that while there is still a difference of opinion among authorities as to the Lee-Metford and the Lee-Enfield, while these rifles are very costly—I have forgotten the exact price per rifle—

MR. DICKEY—The price is £4 13s. 6d. with the bayonet and scabbard.

MR. CASEY—Well, these are comparatively high prices, and while we could obtain a large stock of Martinis at a very low figure, as they are being replaced in the British army by the other rifle, I think it would have been less extravagant if we had commenced with only a few thousand of the magazine rifles, and had in the meantime filled up our corps very cheaply, probably for nothing, with the discarded Martini-Henrys from the British army. When I say "discarded" I do not mean to suggest that there is any fault in the weapon. Many thousands absolutely new, the British Government have no use for, and they probably would have presented these to an important colony such as Canada if we had asked for them. At any rate, they could have been had at a cheap rate. Except the new magazine rifle, they are the best arm in the world, and are still very useful, though imperfect in details to which I need not now refer. I am aware that the hon. member for Muskoka (Mr. O'Brien) and some others in the militia have a lingering preference for the old Snider over the Martini, in which preference I cannot join them, knowing that the Martini, though a hard-kicking rifle, and hard to clean and all that, is much more accurate at a long range. My first point, then, is that we would have consulted economy if we had got a few thousand magazine rifles at a time, and have filled up, for those who did not get magazine rifles, with Martini-Henrys. Then, I take it for granted that the ammunition to be bought will be cordite ammunition. Of course, it is pretty well understood nowadays,

at any rate it was claimed in a recent and very important debate in the British House in which the fate of Government was at stake, that cordite ammunition does not keep very well. We shall probably have to import it in small quantities or else manufacture it in this country. The manufacture has been commenced here, I understand. I do not think that is the cheapest way to get it, but we could not bring in a large quantity, as it could not be relied upon to keep.

(Continued in our next issue)

## DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ARMS.

THERE is a curious uncertainty with regard to the effectiveness of the modern small-bore rifle, and an impression is gradually gaining ground that the improvements in the mechanism of the weapon, in the explosive power of the charge, and the increased velocity of the bullet, do not justify in their results the same amount of confidence as did the less perfect pattern used by our troops a few years back. For, after all, perfection in war implements lies in the deadliness of their effects, and, though increased velocity has been taken to mean at all times increased advantage in this respect, recent experiments apparently go some way to prove the contrary. Up to a certain point the inventor appears to have been able to produce a destructive weapon, but, with the perfection of what has now come to be an art, no corresponding advantage is gained, and experts on all sides are agreed that before the more recent developments, we had a weapon that, if rougher and less accurate, could be relied upon for doing considerably more damage to an opposing force than is possible with the new one.

The French experiences in Madagascar, and the reports of the German colonial troops in Africa, are almost entirely in accord with our own knowledge of the effects of this weapon. There seems to be a general unanimity of opinion that the "stopping power" of the bullet is insufficient, and, although the statement may appear somewhat in the light of a paradox, it is a well-recognized fact by musketry experts that the greater the accuracy of the weapon itself the less heavy is the "butcher's bill" likely to be. A higher initial velocity, a less severe recoil, and a flatter trajectory render shooting easier, and consequently tend to foster a certain amount of carelessness on the part of the firer. Added to this, the soldier has the knowledge that if his first shot with the magazine rifle fails, he can discharge rapidly half a dozen other bullets, which, in case of imminent danger, would probably also be fired without much attempt at taking aim. The value of fire discipline will, with the small-bore magazine rifle, become of infinitely greater importance than hitherto, and in the modern battle it will not be the force which expends the greatest number of bullets which will win, but the one whose bullets are directed with the greatest precision and accuracy at the required object.—Horse Guards Gazette.