

He suggested rifle clubs, and he said the enrolments in these clubs numbered 28,000. I venture to say that he could not muster to-day more than 14,000 or 15,000 out of the total enrolment of 28,000 in these clubs; and any establishment of the militia at all events outside the cities you must discount by at least twenty-five per cent for those who fail to turn up in camp. Not that I think that our boys will funk, but because the changing nature of our population is such that you must allow at least twenty-five per cent off the enrolment for actual muster. I think the hon. gentleman should have gone slower. But first I may say that I commend many things in him. He is active, energetic and earnest as Minister of Militia. He has the courage of his convictions too, especially in coming to this House and claiming the sums of money necessary for carrying out of the work as he thinks it ought to be carried out. He is supported by the patriotism of hon. gentlemen opposite as well as by the patriotism—and the good nature—of hon. gentlemen on this side. I am proud of the House for its readiness to vote money that is deemed necessary for these services; I am proud of the country that the people are willing to pay. I am not inclined to find fault with large expenditures for militia if the money is wisely spent. I am not inclined exactly to find fault with what the minister is doing. But I would warn him and those behind him—for these hon. gentlemen are especially responsible for the actions of the minister—that the people, while they are perfectly sound on this question, and while they are not stingy, are wisely economical and want to get the worth of their money. And we on this side will not be without our share of blame if we allow these expenditures to be undertaken without a fair understanding of what they are required for and a reasonable assurance that the country will be benefited in proportion to the expense involved.

It seems to me that before going into this expenditure, the hon. Minister, of Militia, his Militia Council, and the chief of general staff, should work out into a more practical shape the scheme that they have outlined. They say they want 60,000 enrolled men. Then, they are to have 40,000 more who, in time of stress, will fall at once into line. Now, 100,000 men are not too many in proportion to the establishments of one kind or another that, wisely or unwisely, we have provided for. When I speak of establishments in the sense here intended, I mean these auxiliary institutions which are so necessary in time of war to take care of, to clothe and feed, the army—without which in fact, an army in the field would be useless. It is easy enough, when the money is voted, to organize these establishments for men with the technical training can easily be found for the various departments of work as honourable positions and

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good pay go with appointment. The minister has been diligent and successful in organizing these several services; the work was both pleasant and easy. He had but to select from many applicants to fill the honourable and well paid positions necessary though he had to select men with special education and training for work both responsible and important. But the minister must be careful not to go too far with this part of the work. Of the six and a half million dollars to be voted, less than a million goes for the training of these 40,000 men of whom I have spoken. We must maintain due proportion in all these parts of the service. The advisability of building all these armouries may be open to question. Of course, sufficient cover for the arms must be provided—that is one of the first things, for too much care cannot be taken of the expensive weapons which the evolution of modern arms has enabled us to put in the hands of our militia. While all the auxiliary services can be organized if the money is there to pay for them, I want to see a more practical assurance that the 100,000 men will be forthcoming, without which all this elaborate organization will be too much. The minister will be obliged to depend upon more than the rifle clubs. These show an enrolment of 28,000. And it is clear that of this enrolment a considerable proportion will not be ready to fall in line when called upon. Of course, the value of these rifle clubs is beyond question, and I think the minister is particularly to be commended for his willingness to work in with the provincial authorities. That discovery or invention is a good one. But, even with the rifle clubs, the minister does not show that he will have the force of men that he has estimated. Let him show that the men will be forthcoming, and I for one will be ready to vote this increased expenditure. But I do think the minister should make his plan more complete before he asks for so much money. The minister's scheme as presented has too much on paper and too little in strength of actual men behind the guns. There is too much spent on auxiliary institutions, though some of them like the school of musketry are invaluable, as nothing can be more important than to teach our young men how to handle a rifle. Of all the lessons that militarism—if you like to call it so; patriotism, I call it—has to teach, there is none clearer than that while the first strong defensive power of a country is patriotism, the second is the spread among the people of the knowledge of how to shoot; and the third is the knowledge of the simplest possible form of formation—easily learned by sensible men like our militia—how to spread out and how to gather together again, for in this knowledge, to a great extent lies the power of victory in a modern battle. Let us have more instruction, but let us have less fuss and feathers. The staff are increasing—and on that point I will talk as