

that ever was imported from England. We are proud to belong to the British Empire, but if we are not men enough to stand up for our own interests we would not be such an important part of the British Empire—that Empire that we love and which we are prepared to fight for—nor would we be such a people that the British Empire is proud of calling one of the most brilliant jewels of the British Crown.

THE DRILL SHED SITE.

Sir, you have spoken of a vexed question, but you must forgive me, being a Frenchman from Quebec and from the old city of Chambly—to which you men of Ontario can go back to trace the progress of civilization and Christianity upon the whole of this Province and the Dominion—if in addressing you in a tongue which I love, but which is not my mother tongue, I may possibly make a mistake, and I did make a mistake when I said that the question you have referred to, I have reference to the question of the drill shed, was a vexed question. The mayor of your city, true to the interests of that great trust which is confided to his hand, my friend Mr. Small, that indefatigable enemy of the Minister of Militia, and the other members for your great city laid down their conditions, and like all true Frenchmen, respecting authority and power and respecting the authority of the mayor of Toronto, my last two items in the estimates in Parliament were for what they wished. I submitted to every condition that they laid down. You have got the drill shed to-day, you have got the deeds which transfer the drill shed to the Crown; you have got them drawn up exactly upon the conditions which were laid down by the citizens of Toronto and by the mayor and those gentlemen who represent you in Parliament. But, sir, I am prepared to admit I submitted because these conditions were fair and reasonable; they were conditions different from what I understood them to be at first, but as I say I was only too happy to help in the measure of my limited power the spirit of enterprise of the City of Toronto which had given a ground costing over \$100,000 for a site to build upon it a drill shed, where that force which we all admire, that force which has distinguished itself, will continue to learn the lessons which make it still better for the country and for the people of Canada.

I have been here only since this morning, but several questions were submitted to me; in fact I was told it was a very important matter to settle about the rifle ranges, which the equally enterprising corporation wanted to take from the militia force for purposes that are useful and needed in the interests of the public. I must tell you one thing: as Minister of Militia my first duty is to look after the force. I have already said to the gentlemen who approached me on more than one occasion on this question, if you can get the city or the Exhibition Association to agree with the militia force, and if your city or corporation is prepared to give us a ground which will be acceptable to my force and acceptable to the Department I do not want to stand in the way of anything that can comply with the desires and wishes of a corporation which has certainly done so much. I again say, what I have said on more than one occasion, that as Minister of Militia, as long as it is possible for me to stand by the interests of the force, I am bound to do so, but provided we can be accommodated elsewhere, provided the force be shown that the great and important interest which it is bound to take in the practice of the rifle is not going to be prejudiced or interfered with by any change, I say that we shall try to accommodate these gentlemen who want to develop that growing interest in agriculture in the great centre which is represented by this corporation.

TWO MORE COMPANIES FOR THE GRENS.

There is one other point I wish to refer to before I take my seat. For years and years Col. Grassett and my friend

Col. Dawson, and the gentlemen who represent you in Parliament, especially Mr. Small, the whip of my party, and under whose lash, which he wields so well, I occasionally come—I say that all these gentlemen have asked me to add to a battalion which has distinguished itself, as several other Canadian battalions did, in the North-West campaign. I refer to the Royal Grenadiers, and the wishes of these gentlemen were to add two companies to this regiment. I thought that I might, after fighting the drill shed question, and after fighting the other matters which I have referred to, that it would be possible to get my friends who were appealing to me not to insist upon getting this increase to the force, which increases, to a large extent, the expenditure of the Department but I gave in to these gentlemen before, and I gave in again, and it is my satisfaction to tell you that I have found my way to add two companies to the Royal Grenadiers. (Applause)

I do not wish for one moment to state to you that I believe everything is perfect in the department over which I preside, but I think if you will turn back a few pages of our military history and go back a few years you will find that we have been progressing according to the means of the requirements of the people of Canada. Interested in developing this country, it would not be patriotic, it would not be right, if I or any other Minister of Militia were to ask for any expenditure of money for military purposes that would interfere with the building of railways and the building of great public works, which so help in making up this country of which we are so proud; but, sir, within our means, I want to develop the militia force, and I say that if you look back and if the people of Canada wish to know where the money which has been expended in militia matters has gone, the records which are there will speak the infallible truths, and will show that since 1870 Canada has called out 37,000 men to repel attacks from outside or to put down troubles at home, and I want to know if it would be possible for any country to be without a force that is required, that is indispensable, which constitutes one of the component parts of the life of a people? I say more, it is impossible for any people, whether it be wealthy or whether it be powerful to be without a force such as Canada or other countries placed in the same condition are bound to keep up. I can say, moreover, that if you come to consider what we have been doing upon the amount of money which is voted by Parliament you will agree with me that the money has been properly spent. What have we to-day? Ten years ago we had two battalions composed of 300 men—150 each. To-day every branch of the service is represented by schools of instruction, where an officer who wishes to apply to that branch of the service may go and acquire experience and knowledge, which, when he has obtained, makes of him one of the men who is permitted to wear Her Majesty's uniform in Canada. I consider this is a very valuable addition to the institutions of our country. We have laid down the rule that no man can obtain a commission unless he has acquired the experience that you can acquire only by training, that you can only acquire in schools of instruction. When we had Her Majesty's regiments stationed all over Canada it was not necessary then to establish these permanent corps or schools of instruction which we required for our men, but to-day, without the British regiments, it became a necessity, and it would be absurd to believe that a few days' drill for the rural corps every two years is sufficient to give these officers an experience which they require to command their men.

AN ANNUAL DRILL.

Sir, I want more: I would like to have the whole force drilled every year, which is one of the most important matters that can be agitated by the militia of Canada. Those who have taken a prominent part in the militia organization know well that men who are enlisted for three