

Onimet) when he says that we are not remunerating these men sufficiently for the services they render. I hope at a later day that the Government will be in a position to increase their pay to a figure commensurate to the services they render. The hon. member for Muskoka (Mr. O'Brien) has also drawn my attention to the pay of officers commanding batteries. In England, as is well known, the officer in command of these batteries is a major instead of a captain, and receives pay according to his rank, which is the system we are endeavoring to put in force here by the resolutions which have been submitted to Parliament. I intend to consider this question, which would involve a very small expenditure, for I think there is no branch of the service which has developed more ardor in their work, or displayed better training than the batteries we have in Canada. We have batteries in Quebec, Montreal and other places which would not be a disparagement to the regular force, but the officers in command of such batteries are only captains now, and it may be possible to accord to them the rank which is recommended by my hon. friend from Muskoka (Mr. O'Brien), who knows a great deal about the force, and has taken a great deal of pains in the consideration of this Bill. My predecessor in the office of Minister of Militia does not take very strong objection to the increase of pay of the officers of city corps. He said that under his *regime* the expenditure was only \$554,000. I cannot congratulate my hon. predecessor on that reduced expenditure. When I came into the Department I found that the hon. gentleman had allowed the Militia expenditure to be continually reduced; and I found that the stores had suffered, that every branch in the Department had suffered in consequence. Whether the hon. gentleman did not take any very deep interest in the Department over which he presided, or whether he was not allowed to carry out his views, he allowed the expenditure of every Department to increase, but that of the Department of Militia and Defence, which decreased continually. The hon. gentleman says that 60 cts. a day was granted to the rank and file by the late Government; but he must remember that this was for six days' drill, instead of for twelve, as at present, and that out of the 60 cts. the men had to provide their rations. To-day we give them 50 cts. and provide their rations as well.

Mr. VAIL. They had twelve days, and they got 60 cts. a day, and had their rations besides.

Mr. CARON. The hon. gentleman is wrong and I am right. Now, I think the hon. gentleman will see that we are, at least, as liberal as he was when he presided over the Department, and I think the force will admit that they are as well, or better treated than they were under hon. gentlemen opposite. The hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Thompson) has stated that Tory promises are not always kept. Well, I have always tried to bring the Militia force of Canada to as high a state of efficiency as the requirements and circumstances of the country would admit, and I am glad to see that in one instance, at any rate, these Tories have kept their promises, and I would not wish for any better testimony than the testimony of the hon. gentleman, because I know that he has taken a great deal of interest in the Militia force of Canada, and I take his expression as that of a man who knows thoroughly the subject of which he speaks. My hon. friend from Laval (Mr. Onimet) has spoken of reducing the force. Well, that is a question requiring a great deal of consideration. Considering the population of the country, the force, as it now exists, is really no larger than it should be. It may be possible to reduce it gradually by weeding out any company or battery, or any other branch of the service that is not thoroughly efficient, and then it may be possible for us to grant to the efficient force greater advantages than they receive at present. My hon. friend, the member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) stated that the gentlemen who spoke upon this measure

Mr. CARON.

were all officers. Well, I believe there are no more competent authorities to speak upon a question of this kind than the men who have given their time, their trouble and their money to it.

Mr. SPROULE. I think the hon. Minister misunderstood me. I said that the men who were defending the increase of pay to the officers were all officers themselves.

Mr. CARON. Well, the hon. gentleman will see that there can be no more competent authorities on that point than the officers; and they have decided that the pay which is granted to the officers under this measure is not excessive. Still I am glad to see that my hon. friend, in other respects, approves of the measure, except that he would prefer to have the expenditure distributed in a different way from that proposed in the measure. Before sitting down, I must refer to what my hon. friend the member for the county of Ottawa has expressed in the eloquent language in which he always clothes his utterances. The hon. gentleman could not avoid, although he was very kind in the manner in which he spoke, saying he had a grievance. Well, I believe, it is almost an advantage to have a grievance. No man is perfectly happy without a grievance—

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). We are very happy.

Mr. CARON. Because life becomes very monotonous unless one has a grievance. Knowing that my hon. friend is so happy I would not like to remove that grievance for the present in case it should interfere with his equanimity and his perfect happiness. My hon. friend said, as we all know, that when under the administration of my illustrious predecessor, Sir George Cartier, he was called upon to raise two companies to come down to Ottawa, he found two who were ready at a moment's notice. We all know that the King of the Gatineau is omnipotent in his county and can always get, not only the Militia force but every other force in his constituency, out at a moment's notice, to obey his call. I can tell the hon. gentleman, that anxious as I am not to remove absolutely the grievance he has submitted to this Committee, I will try to reduce it by one-half. It may be possible for me, if the Bill and the resolution are carried, to re-distribute the force in such a way that one company may be added to the force in his county, which I know will be a valuable addition to the Militia of this country.

Mr. VAIL. I speak under correction, but the only difference it seems to me that there is between the city corps and those turned out for camp drill, is, that the city corps are drilled at their own headquarters during twelve days. In all cases they receive 50 cts. a day; in some cases the Government, by Order in Council, gave them an additional 10 cts. a day. Of course, when drilled at headquarters they received no rations.

Mr. AUGER. The hon. Minister finds the best way to have the money reach the pockets of the rank and file is to pay the officers. I differ entirely from the hon. gentleman. At home where I come from, the money that is paid the officers never reaches the rank and file. If the hon. gentleman intends the rank and file to get the money, his best way is to pay it to them. I think the proposal to pay the men 60 cts. instead of 50 cts. a day is a good one. The hon. Minister seems to think that the rank and file live by their patriotic feeling. If that is so it must be an insult to the officers to say that they cannot do the same. It would be more patriotic on the part of the officers to give an example to the rank and file, by receiving less themselves and giving more to the men.

Mr. WRIGHT. The hon. Minister of Militia was kind enough to promise that an additional company would be added to the Militia force of my county. I thank him for that as a small favor. Considering that that county is perhaps the largest in the Dominion, containing 50,000 inhabitants, and considering the particular position they are