

member for West Toronto (Mr. Denison). Like the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) I happen to be a layman, and in discussing these matters I take advantage of the advice of the hon. member for West Toronto and other military men who happen to be in the House. I can tell that hon. gentleman that, in so far as I have been able to collect opinions, the consensus of opinion of those who have followed the progress and development of our force from year to year, is that we should have annual drill for the whole force, whatever that force may be. The hon. gentleman has spoken of the expensive staff. Ever since I have been Minister I have viewed the matter from the same standpoint as he views it, and, following that course, I have reduced the expenses of the staff by upwards of \$11,000 per annum. I consider it is not necessary to have an expensive staff; but when the hon. gentleman speaks of the greatest portion of the money voted going to the staff, I am unable to agree with him.

Mr. DENISON. I meant the permanent schools and all.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I do not call the permanent schools part of the staff. I call the permanent schools training schools, which permit our officers to qualify by receiving certificates to obtain commissions. I consider that for the amount of money we have expended on the force, Canada can be proud indeed of the force as it now stands. I should like to have more days' drill than we have at present, but I believe that, if we have twelve days' drill annually, with the aptitude of Canadians for military training, we will have a force that will be unequalled for the purpose we require it in this country, more for protection at home than for offensive purposes—

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). It would be no use for that purpose.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON,—but merely as the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) has indicated, for use in great centres where it may be necessary at a moment's notice to call out an organized military force. I consider that we have a force that really we would not have paid too much for the service which they would be called upon to render. Whenever they have been called upon they have done their duty in a manner that Canada can be proud of, and I think that if Parliament in its liberality, and my hon. friend and colleague the Minister of Finance who is always prepared to accede to any fair proposition, agrees to add to the present vote for drill purposes, \$175,000 next year, that would permit us to drill the whole force, the rural and city battalions, and I think it would be an immense benefit to Canada. These are the views I entertain, and I believe I am expressing the views also of all those who have taken an interest in the force and have looked into the question.

Mr. DICKEY. I would like to ask the Minister if it would not be possible in Nova Scotia, where the railways are owned chiefly by the Government, to furnish free passes over the railways to those going to the annual shooting competition. It would not cost the Government anything directly, and I think that the House would be willing that the Government railway should be put to that use, if such arrangements could be made so as to prevent

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fraud and imposition, by confining the passes to those going to the competition.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. In uniform?

Mr. DICKEY. Yes, in uniform. I think it would be a great boon to the men themselves. It would increase the attendance, show an interest on the part of the Government in these competitions, and it would do a great service without costing the country anything. I hope that the hon. Minister of Militia will consult with the Minister of Railways, and see if an arrangement of that sort cannot be come to.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I have been asked by several of the officers of the companies in Prince Edward Island to urge upon the military authorities the absolute necessity for permitting these rural battalions to drill at local headquarters instead of going into camp. The statements made to me were that the men from rural districts would not go to camp, and that the companies, under the present system, are dwindling to nothing. I am not personally in a position to know whether these representations meet the approval of the higher authorities or not, but they come to me from a number of the captains of the several companies.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I shall submit the matter to the Major General Commanding for consideration.

Mr. PATTERSON (Colchester). I wish to draw the attention of the Committee for a moment to a matter which has been referred to by the hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Dickey), that is, in relation to militiamen in the Province of Nova Scotia getting passes over the Government railways to the provincial shooting matches. There appears to be a very strange anomaly in reference to this matter in connection with the militiamen of the Province of Nova Scotia. The militiamen of the City of Halifax can get to the Bedford shooting range for practice, and on all occasions that they appear in the railway depot in Halifax they are taken over the Intercolonial Railway free of charge, for even ordinary practice, while the militiaman in the County of Colchester, where we have some crack shots, cannot get to the annual match at Bedford without putting his hands in his pockets and paying his railway fare to and from Bedford station. That is a matter that should receive some attention. The other day I brought the matter to the notice of the Minister of Railways, and he referred me very coolly to the Minister of Militia, and there the matter seems to stand. In the meantime the provincial match has gone on and the competitors from the Counties of Colchester, Cumberland and Pictou have had, on the 18th of this month, to pay their way to the Bedford provincial match and back again. It does seem a strange thing that while that is the practice with the rural militiamen, that the militiamen from the City of Halifax can go not only to the provincial match, but to their ordinary practice, free of charge. I do think this is a matter which should receive some attention from the Minister of Militia.

Mr. KAULBACH. I am quite in accord with the remarks which were made last evening by the hon. member for Muskoka (Mr. O'Brien) and others, and I am also in accord with my respected friend from Toronto West (Mr. Denison) with regard to increased drill. It is called annual drill,