

gentleman who has taken an interest in the question, and who knows what the competition at Shoeburyness is, to state whether I am exaggerating or not, when I say that the fact of our Canadian team having competed successfully against the picked men of England, is not a high tribute to the instruction received at these batteries. Now, if this training has been of such great value to the artillery, why should the infantry, when Canada can afford to give them that training which Canada gives to the artillery, be deprived of such a training. It has been said that we have got all the training we require, and that we should give all the money to the rank and file. In reply to that, I would be ready and willing to-morrow to leave it to the rank and file to say whether or not, in the view of the whole force, they should not have thoroughly trained officers and non-commissioned officers in the infantry, whether we should not take that force and drill and train it in such a way that instead of being a disorganized force it will become a thoroughly organized force, which is just exactly what we intend to do by this Bill. We wish to expend the money in such a way that the expenditure will be of the greatest possible service to Canada. We wish not to expend the money on pageantry, as an hon. gentleman chose to style it. It is not pageantry, and when the hon. gentleman was quietly at home, the very force which he has been accusing of turning out for the purpose of showing their uniform—for the purpose of pageantry—was defending his property and protecting the country against those who were trying to invade it. At that time the hon. gentleman did not say a word, he did not consider then that there was any pageantry in the Militia force of Canada, though to-day he says it is all pageantry. We have heard a great deal of criticism from the hon. gentleman about this new Quartermaster-General who is not appointed, who if he is required will be appointed, but who if he is not required certainly will not be appointed. I ask the hon. gentleman who has criticised the Bill, without looking into it, whether it was not right in consolidating the militia law of Canada, and making changes which were required by the changes which have taken place in this country to provide for the appointment of this officer. Any hon. gentleman who has taken the trouble to look into military matters knows that the Quartermaster-General is one of the most important staff officers required in every military organization; and it was right and proper to take authority in this Bill to appoint such an officer, if required. Before any hon. gentleman expresses an opinion on the subject of this appointment he should wait until the Estimates are brought down; for the Estimates which have already been brought down do not make any provision for it, and the Supplementary Estimates may not do so. Until they do, it is impossible for any hon. member to decide whether this is a piece of extravagance on the part of the Government or not. In any case, every hon. gentleman who has taken the trouble to read in the press of England, and of other military nations, of recent developments, will know that if we required a force for active service a Quartermaster-General would be indispensable, although it may be a question whether the Quartermaster-General should be also the Adjutant General, or whether the two offices should be separate. The hon. member for West Middlesex again displayed his great knowledge of military matters by stating that this torpedo corps should not possibly be tolerated—that it was frightful extravagance. Now, there again the hon. gentleman was talking about a question which he had not taken the trouble of studying. If there is one thing that is not extravagant in the Bill, it is the provision regarding the torpedo corps. With our extensive coast, if we have a thorough and efficient torpedo organization we shall be able to dispense with ships, batteries and many other expensive things; so I knew when the hon. gentleman accused me of extravagance, he did not half know me, because I really am not extravagant.

Mr. CARON,

Mr. O'BRIEN. You are not half extravagant enough.

Mr. CARON. My hon. friend says, I am not half extravagant enough, and I am beginning to believe he is right. But, in proposing a torpedo corps, I am really proposing to save a great deal of expense to the country; and, if the hon. gentleman wishes, I will send him a lot of the most recent works published in England, Germany, the United States, France and other countries, indicating that the proper modern mode of defence for seaboard as extended as ours is the torpedo corps. The hon. member will find this out when he studies the question; but, it may take him much more time than remains this Session, because he has not begun to understand it yet, and, if I send to my hon. friend all the books I have consulted, I am afraid the hon. gentleman will not be able to express an opinion until next Session; but, by next Session, I am convinced the hon. gentleman will say that I was right and that he was wrong. The hon. member for Richmond and Wolfe (Mr. Ives), has gone into this subject very thoroughly—and my hon. friend, though generally right, was not right upon this question. The hon. gentleman states that we are expending a very large amount of money, and he calls upon me as Minister of Militia to state whether we want to get up a standing army, or whether we want to get up a force merely for domestic troubles. The hon. gentleman knows that we could not get up a standing army without his knowledge, and the Bill states beyond any possibility of doubt, exactly what the intentions of the Government are in organizing this force. Now, Sir, this great standing army would be a force numbering 750 men. You can imagine what a sensation we, as a military nation, would produce among the military nations of the world, when they heard that we had organized a standing army of 750 men. Well, Sir, we are organizing, not a standing army, but a force for purposes of instruction; we are organizing for the infantry, schools such as we have already established for the artillery, and which have had such a beneficial effect upon that branch of the service. I think that, ever since I have been at the head of the Militia Department, I have not attempted to increase the expenditure on the staff or the officers, and I am not proposing to do so in the measure I am now submitting to the House. If hon. gentlemen will look into the accounts they will see that since I have been Minister of Militia I have reduced the expenditure on the staff. That saving on the pay of the staff I have given to the rank and file; and I ask any hon. gentleman whether it is not a fact that these camps have been of great benefit to the force? I state so not upon my own authority, because I can understand that hon. gentlemen would say I am not in a position to express an opinion on such matters, that I am not a competent authority on such matters, but I express that opinion, taking the record that appears in every report published in the Department of Militia and Defence; I express it as being the opinion of military men who have had a large experience in the British service, and who say that the military forces of Canada during their twelve days drill have done more work and acquired more experience than they ever before had an opportunity of acquiring. I can frankly state that I should like a yearly drill instead of a biennial camp drill in every district of every Province, because men can learn more in these camps than in the drill at headquarters. No doubt, at headquarters drill the men do their duty and do it well, but you have not got the large number of men together that you have in camps, and men cannot gain the experience there that they acquire in camps, nor learn the drill which is given in camps and can never be given at headquarters, and, besides, in camps that feeling is aroused which should always exist in any authorized force; and I should like to see camps where men would be brought together from the different sections of the