

as Clover Point rifle range. It is on a narrow neck of land running out about 200 yards into the Gulf of Georgia and the main drive of the whole city of Victoria passes immediately along the very edge of the firing point at 400, 500 and 600 yards so that on Saturday afternoon when the most of the volunteers, who are mechanics, labourers and clerks, have time to go out to practise rifle shooting they are frequently stopped by an almost constant stream of carriages passing along where they are firing. Besides, this range has been kept in repair, almost solely by the local riflemen themselves. I am not a militia man; I never was, and I suppose I am a little too old now to become one. However, I am somewhat of a rifle crank, my friends tell me. I know a little about rifle practice and how to use the rifle and I cannot help remarking that if a great deal of the money that is now spent in drilling the men was expended in instructing the volunteers of our country in the use of the rifle, they would be a great deal more effective should the necessity ever arise for their active service. I venture to say that a very small percentage, probably not more than 10 per cent, of the volunteers know how to use effectively any rifle that may be placed in their hands, especially the modern rifles, and one of the greatest necessities to-day in order to make our militia efficient is to give them a great deal more rifle practice, and much less drill.

Hon. Mr. ALMON—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. McINNES (B. C.)—I like to see a body of military men presenting a fine appearance, but at the same time it would be very much better that they should be acquainted with the use of the rifle and make drill a secondary matter. I might also say that this rifle range at Victoria is within the limits of the city and we are there actually on sufferance. We got permission from the city council, but that permission is liable to be withdrawn from us at any moment, and I think it is too bad, after spending thirty-five or forty thousand dollars in building a very fine drill hall there, that our militia should be deprived of one of the many necessities to equip them for active service. I therefore hope the government will at once secure a convenient rifle range—and there are many places within easy reach of the city of Victoria that can

be got. We have two electric tramways, one running northward and the other eastwards that can take the volunteers within two or three minutes walk of places where a first class rifle range could be established at a very moderate cost.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—In answer to the hon. gentleman's question I can inform him that no action has been taken towards providing a rifle range for the militia of Victoria, B. C. No report from the local officers has reached the government as to the necessity at present for a range in that locality. When that is done, the government will consider the matter, and do that which is deemed best in the interests of the militia force.

Hon. Mr. McINNES (B. C.)—Will the hon. gentleman allow me to ask if the representatives from Victoria have ever applied for a new rifle range? Can he inform me on that subject?

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—No, I am not in a position to answer that question. I have given the hon. gentleman the answer which has been provided by the department.

NEW WESTMINSTER PENITENTIARY.

MOTION.

Hon. Mr. McINNES moved :

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General: praying that His Excellency will cause to be laid before the Senate:—

1. A copy of the instructions to Mr. Justice Drake, 1894, relative to the inquiry into the management of the New Westminster Penitentiary.

2. A copy of all the evidence given before the Royal Commission held before Mr. Justice Drake, in 1894, relative to the management of the New Westminster Penitentiary.

3. A copy of the report of Mr. Justice Drake thereon.

He said: The only thing that I desire to say in connection with this motion is that I waited for a long time before giving this notice, hoping that the returns called for in the other House would be brought down, but up to the time I gave the notice they had not been submitted. I understand that since giving this notice they have come down. I hope the hon. minister will see that a copy of them is laid on the table of the Senate