

moment's notice, by putting on extra hands—we have the machinery ready—manufacture in case of emergency so as to meet the requirements of the situation. In reading those letters, I have not read some articles of the MILITIA GAZETTE, which refer also to the question, and which contain expressions of opinion coming from England; but if I may be permitted I shall hand over the short passages of those different articles to *Hansard*, so that it may complete the statement which I thought it my duty to lay before the House in reference to this matter:

“The wonderful improvement in our shooting at 600 yards this season warrants the statement that the 1888 issue of Snider ammunition is fully equal to the best English, the mark IX. Bull's eye after bull's eye is now ‘plugged’ in at 600 yards with our old Sniders, and the hideous drop-shot is a thing of the past.”

“It is at 600 yards especially that this year's ammunition shows its superiority over the Canadian make of all former years. There now appears to be absolutely no ground of complaint; and in the opinion of many the Dominion product is even superior to the English ammunition formerly used. Examination of several packages made by an expert at Ottawa, has shown that there is not more than one grain variation in the powder charge, whilst four grains were allowed in the English. And the riflemen's expostulations and advice having at last been heeded, the desired alteration has now been made in the shape of the bullet, enabling it to travel in conformity with the rule for riflemen: ‘head to the target.’”

“Our present good fortune in the matter of the excellence of our Snider ammunition has attracted some attention in the mother country, as witness the following from the *Volunteer Record*: ‘The Canadians seem to be greatly in advance of us in the art of manufacturing small-arm ammunition; the riflemen of that dependency being particularly fortunate in the 1888 issue, a ‘make’ with which most satisfactory results are being obtained. It quite makes an old country shootist's mouth water to hear that an examination of several packages made at Ottawa has shown that there is not more than one grain variation in the powder charge, whilst four or five grains were allowed in the English cartridges, as demonstrated by the experiments made by an expert two or three years ago.’”

LT. COL. DENISON—As to the cartridges, I believe there is little doubt that, although they were bad at one time, they are good now. The concensus of opinion at the meeting of the Ontario Rifle Association was that the cartridges now used were excellent. The hon. the Minister referred to the MILITIA GAZETTE as having endorsed the cartridges. I might also refer to the MILITIA GAZETTE as having endorsed the suggestion I made with reference to the management of the schools, and declared that it will be quite possible to have a cadet corps organized in connection with the schools. Since then I have received a long letter from a prominent officer in the West, giving me some facts in connection with the idea I brought forward, and endorsing it. He represents to me that out of some 79 officers and 526 non-commissioned officers and men, who went through the school, only 64 officers qualified and 184 non-commissioned officers and men. I take it, the object of the school is to have a number of non-commissioned officers and men who will be able to instruct our militia in their drill. We find that some 342 have been in the schools two or three months, and possibly longer, and left without having obtained certificates. It seems to me that is a great waste. The Government have clothed and fed these men for two or three months at the schools, though, on leaving them, they may not get a certificate. Whether that is the fault of the officers commanding corps, who send the men there, or the fault of the manner in which the schools are conducted, I will not say. Probably it is as much the fault of the officers who send the men there as it is of the schools, because, if an officer does not select carefully the men who are to go to the schools, the chances are that they will not make such a good report when they come to be examined. Under the old system, only those who passed or qualified got their certificates and received their money. The result was that they had to be industrious and attentive to discipline, because they knew that if they did not get their certificate they did not get any pay. Under the present regulation, it does not matter whether they do much or little work. In either case they get their pay. I therefore think it would be well for the Minister of Militia to consider this question before next session, and see if a cadet corps could not be formed in connection with these schools. I believe that would meet the approbation of the House, and of all the militia in the country.

LT. GEN. LAURIE—I was one of those who brought before the notice of the Government a few years ago the inferiority of the cartridges which were then made at the Quebec factory. I feel now that it is my duty to speak as to their excellence. I was the umpire at the matches at Bedford last year, and during all those matches not only was there no complaint about the cartridges, but the competitors all agreed in saying that this was the best ammunition they had ever been supplied with.

MR. CASEY.—A point I have often urged upon the Minister is the propriety of gradually introducing an improved arm amongst our volunteers. There is no use in having volunteers at all unless we expect them to fight somebody at some time; and, if they were to meet anyone on the field of battle, as they did four years ago in the North West, they should be provided with an arm as good as that possessed by their opponents. The hon. gentleman knows that the Snider is not a modern arm, that it is not equal to the arms possessed by the Indians in the North West, whom I have

met in numbers carrying their Winchesters and with cartridge belts around their waists. I think our volunteers should have as good an arm as any enemy whom they might be called upon to meet. There might be a gradual introduction of some new arm—either the Martini-Henry or some more modern arm than that. The hon. gentleman is in a position to find out what is the best military arm of the present day, and I do not think the country would grumble if a reasonable amount were put in the estimates to gradually supply this new arm. It might be made a matter of competition among the different corps, and those who came out best in their annual drill or in shooting might first be supplied. Of course, it would be too large a contract to re-arm the whole force at once.

CAPT. SUTHERLAND—I cannot allow this item to pass without protesting against the manner in which the hon. Minister treats matters of this kind when they are brought to his attention. I do think when a matter of importance to the volunteers of this country is brought in a proper manner before the notice of the Minister, it is his duty at least to refer the matter to his subordinates so that the volunteers may know whether there is any good reason why their interests should not be attended to. It is a very poor excuse for the Minister to say that because the House is in a hurry to adjourn, he cannot take a minute or two to give some explanations. This is not a new question. I have personally brought it to his attention and I think other officers have done so for several years. I have been willing to hear any reasonable explanation that he had to give; I certainly do not wish to press the matter unduly upon him. I know the difficulties Ministers have in meeting the demands from various quarters. The Minister will see by the remarks made this afternoon that this is not a party question; other hon. members, supporters of the Government, also think that this matter might receive more attention from the department than it has had. I think the hon. member for Frontenac (Lt.-Col. Kirkpatrick) pointed out to the Minister in a practical way, he having had some experience himself, how this complaint could be remedied; he suggested a better system of inspection by which a saving with regard to this militia clothing might be effected. I can endorse what he said, and I believe that enough money could be saved, without increasing the amount asked for in the estimates, to supply the clothing two or three times over. I quite endorse the statement of the hon. member for Muskoka (Col. O'Brien) in regard to the issue of another suit of clothing. The Minister himself acknowledged there would be a saving. I am satisfied from my experience that if the matter was conducted on a business-like basis the volunteer force would have a great deal more comfort, and the money now appropriated to supply clothing would supply all the equipments necessary, and in a manner a great deal more satisfactory to the force. It is not only the helmets that have to be supplied by the officers or friends of the volunteers, but many other articles besides, and it becomes a heavy expense for the majority of the officers of the battalion who desire to maintain the force. At present the force is maintained through the patriotism of the men and the officers and their willingness to put their hands in their pockets and subscribe liberally to put the men in a position to appear at all as they ought to appear in the field. It is all very well for the Minister and his General, who no doubt is a very gallant officer, and a very able soldier, and all that sort of thing, to sit down in the office and make new orders. The battalion to which I belong have a special grievance in this regard. Formerly we had a certain kind of helmet which was required for full dress, but recently the department has seen fit—I dare say it is quite right—to change the order and to say that another kind of helmet shall be required. Now, how are these to be supplied? Some of these men may not have the practical experience of the officers of the force in Canada, but when they pass orders like that, I think the least they can do is to look to the efficiency of the force, and see how these regulations are to be carried out. In this case I see that they have issued an order that the helmet shall be the full dress for the rifle brigade, and the only way we can keep up our battalion is to put our hands into our pockets and supply these helmets. The Minister may say that straw hats or anything else he might supply is good enough, but that does not meet the feelings or the patriotism of the young men, who lose their time and sacrifice their wages in order to maintain the force. I want the members of the force themselves and the officers to know whether there is any good reason why the Minister of Militia should not take these matters into consideration and deal with them in a practical and business-like way, so that they may know whether these things can be provided, or whether there is any desire on the part of the department to keep up the efficiency of the force. I hope the Minister will consider the suggestions that have been made, by which helmets could be supplied for the force at one-third the amount that is now paid. I hope that when matters of this kind are brought to his notice he will think it worth while to deal with them, or to instruct the officers of his department to deal with them, and if common sense and business