

Mr. ROSAMOND. Will the minister say if it is proposed to make any change in the kind of clothing?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Well I think it is, although the matter is under consideration. I think myself that we might have more comfortable clothing at less expenditure than at present, and I asked the General to look into that matter. I hope that some result will come of the inquiries which he is making.

Mr. SPROULE. Do you keep any quantity of clothing in stock? How will you equip the new contingent for instance?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. We will have to give an order for the clothing. Unfortunately we have no reserve of clothing. I found very little when I came in and we have been using a great deal in the camps and in the reviews during the visit of Their Royal Highnesses when we had 20,000 men out. We have not been able to accumulate a reserve. I hope under the terms of this vote that possibly we may be able this year to do with less in camp, and add something to our reserve. It is very important we should do so, but I did not feel at liberty to ask a special vote for it.

Mr. CLARE. I was very much surprised to hear from the member for East Elgin that the cadet company in St. Thomas had been supplied with Morris tubes for rifle practice. I know that a great many cadet companies from the different high schools have petitioned the Minister of Militia for Morris tubes but without success. The Minister of Education was presented with a petition from all the high schools in the province of Ontario, and was asked to make representations to the Minister of Militia about it. I cannot understand why one school should get this tube and all the others not. I think they should all be treated on the same principle. It is very important that these young men should have a chance of getting rifle practice which is perhaps the most important of the manoeuvres of war. I hope the minister will see that all schools are treated alike, and that all the cadet companies shall be supplied with these Morris tubes. I understand that there is a grant made to those companies of \$50 each or altogether about \$1,750 for drilling. It will cost very little more to provide these tubes so as to enable the cadets to study this important part of military service.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I can assure my hon. friend (Mr. Clare) that there is no intention on my part to discriminate. I was not aware that any Morris tubes had been supplied to cadets. I know that an application has been made, but the fact is that we had not a sufficient number to comply with that application. I will inquire and we shall certainly treat all alike.

Hon. Mr. BORDEN (King's).

Mr. CLARE. Then, is it the intention of the minister to supply the different cadet companies with Morris tubes?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I am informed by the Deputy Minister that we have not supplied any. It is quite possible that in the case referred to the tubes may have been secured from the local militia, and possibly that arrangement might be made in other instances.

Mr. FOWLER. It would appear then that the department has done nothing to encourage the cadet corps. They have not allowed them to have tents.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. We have supplied rifles.

Mr. CLARE. You gave them no ammunition.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. No.

Mr. FOWLER. They would be like wooden guns then.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. There is plenty of ammunition to be purchased.

Mr. FOWLER. No better use could be made of the money that is devoted to militia purposes, then in supplying these cadet corps with tents so that they may camp out. They go into the business not for the 75 cents a day but for mere love and enthusiasm, and when they are young and enthusiastic is the time to make soldiers of them. The militia department should supply the cadets with tents and Morris tubes. I think the minister should take that suggestion into his serious consideration and try to do something during the coming summer.

Mr. INGRAM. The militia department has sent officers to inspect these different cadet corps.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. And we have supplied drill instructors from the permanent force.

Mr. INGRAM. I see that there is but one slight reference to the cadets in the whole of the militia report. Would it not be well to publish the report of these inspecting officers so that we may know what progress they are making.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. That suggestion is a very good one. The cadets of course are not part of the militia, and there is no vote taken for them.

Mr. CLARKE. Do I understand that no Morris tubes were issued to the cadet corps.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The Deputy Minister informs me that there were not any issued.