

quite fair to the speakers to be so exclusive as to make the affair a private one in place of extending the courtesy the press is accustomed to receive upon such occasions.

A STRIKING statement in these days when such emphasis is placed upon the insufficiency of the drill appropriation, is that of our correspondent "T," who writes that it costs more annually to maintain two privates at any of our schools of infantry, than to drill and maintain a whole company of the militia. He will have many sympathisers in his request for more money for the general force, even at the expense of a reduction of the strength in the barracks of the permanent corps.

OUTING for January has for a leading feature an attractively written and illustrated article on the Canadian Militia, contributed by Capt. Thos. S. Blackwell, of the 54th, to whose writings in that magazine we have frequently alluded. After dealing generally with the Militia organization, Capt. Blackwell takes up the Victoria Rifles of Canada, as a crack corps of the Dominion, and the illustrations are of the Vics' handsome armoury and the officers of the corps, past and present. The article is "to be continued" in the February number.

"TO HAVE THE WHOLE FORCE DRILLED EVERY YEAR, is one of the most important matters that can be agitated by the Militia of Canada." These words are quoted from Sir Adolphe Caron's speech, printed in full in this issue. The Minister does not disguise the fact that there is considerable feeling against any increase in the Militia expenditure, and against this feeling he has constantly to strive. It is the duty of every well-wisher of the force to lose no opportunity of showing the substantial benefits arising from the Militia outlay, and thus help to remove the objections to it. When the public demand annual drills, the Department or the Government will doubtless be found ready to respond. The Militia, as civilians, may be a powerful factor in creating such a demand, if they will trouble themselves.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON'S SPEECH AT TORONTO.

(From the World, 25th December.)

On Dec. 15 last, Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia, and Major-General Herbert, the new commandant of the Canadian forces, were entertained at dinner by the officers of the Toronto Garrison. Sir Adolphe, in response to the toast of "The Minister of Militia," proposed by Col. Otter, D.A.G., spoke as follows, his remarks being frequently and most liberally applauded:—

COL. OTTER AND GENTLEMEN: My appreciation of your princely hospitality, my appreciation of your kindly feelings, would be small, indeed, if I were not to admit that I find it difficult, almost impossible, to find words to express to you my delight, my feelings of deep gratification and pleasure, at finding myself among the officers of the force of Toronto. Sir, when I heard this band of yours playing "A La Claire Fontaine" and shortly afterwards "God Save the Queen" here in this room which promises

so much for the future prosperity of Canada, for this great city of Toronto, which in by-gone days was called Little York, when, I say, I heard your band playing these two pieces I thought it was extending the right hand of good fellowship to the east; the two races which constitute the strength and future of our country shaking hands over the empire which we all love, representing the common sentiment of loyalty to our Queen and to our fair Canada, showing that, whether tracing our origin to old France or tracing it to the British race, we consider the Queen of England our Queen, and that we are prepared to fight for the future prosperity of our country. You have spoken in words too flattering of the services I have rendered and the work I have done in the position I occupy in the country. I have done my duty as well as I understood how to do it, but it is due to the loyalty of my Canadian militia that I was enabled as Minister of Militia to carry out the duty which the country expected from me, and I knew I could not fail because I placed implicit faith in the force over which as Minister I was called upon to preside, and I knew that whether looking on this as a young country settling difficulties at home or repelling attacks outside—I knew that as Canadians I could rely on them to carry out what the country expected from every Canadian—to do their duty as did the militia of Canada in by-gone days and as in the present day they have showed how to carry out and do their duty, the details of which have been consigned to the pages of our history, and which in the pages of that history constitute what I consider to be one of the most glorious events which has ever come to us as a people and as a great and growing nation. (Applause.)

You have a right in saying that occasionally I have had some misunderstandings with the press, and occasionally, I must admit, the press has criticised my administration and my department, and the manner in which I was endeavoring to fulfil my duty to the militia force of Canada rather severely, but, sir, I do not always believe what I read in the newspapers—(laughter)—and I have followed the course which I believe is the right course in the interests of Canada and in the interests of the militia, and events have proved that possibly I was right and possibly that the press at times was wrong.

BUYING THE UNIFORMS AT HOME.

I was at one time accused of doing a great injustice to the force, and it is possible at a meeting like the present meeting, where we are all one family, all the militiamen discussing militia matters, that I might be permitted to refer to what you said about the clothing. Yes, it was a very vexed question, and for three months, as my friend and colleague, Mr. Bowell, knows, I was before the Public Accounts Committee discussing the question whether I should give the money which Canadians were paying to Canadians or whether I should go to outsiders. I felt that if it were possible for me to give to the militia force clothing that the militia required and to give the money which Canadians required to Canadians instead of sending it abroad, I was doing a patriotic act and doing no injury to the force. Who are the patriots of the country? Those who shoulder the rifle and take up their arms to fight the battles of the country. And what are the men who would stand up and object to my keeping in Canada hard-earned money which Canadians are contributing if it were possible for me as Minister of Militia to procure for the force a clothing which we could secure in our own country? Sir, I do not want to boast of it, nor do I want to boast of my success, but events have shown that I was right, and events have shown that the militia force never objected as a force to the policy which was being followed by the department, and the result is that I can show on my desk to-day letters stating that the clothing which is furnished to-day to the militia force is equal in every respect to the best clothing