

sity of keeping pace with the onward march of progress in the military life of Canada. At the time we entered confederation, we agreed with the Imperial government that we would spend a certain amount of money annually for military purposes, in providing proper defences for the Dominion, and in providing a military force that would be available in time of need for the defence of the empire. We were expected to spend annually something like \$2,000,000. It is only within the last two or three years that we have made any attempt to do it, but we are now doing something in the way of carrying out the spirit of that agreement. We are doing it on much more intelligent lines than heretofore, but I think there is a great deal of room for improvement yet in many lines in which this expenditure is going on, and that we might even go much farther with credit to ourselves and profit to the empire if we undertook to organize the nucleus of a naval defence as well as a military defence.

I am not going to say much about the expenditure of this money in these various lines, because I do not know enough about the subject to intelligently criticise it, or to say whether it is wise or unwise, but I have always thought that one of the urgent needs of the situation is to have a sufficient supply of arms of a modern type available at any time need might arise. You might mobilize your forces very rapidly, but you could not supply them with arms as rapidly as you could mobilize them. But if you had an available stock of arms and ammunition, it would be an easy matter to put men in the field and in a short time they would become trained and drilled soldiers. I was glad to hear the Minister of Militia and Defence (Hon. Mr. Borden) say this afternoon that we have a fairly good supply of arms. He did not give us an approximation as to the kind or number of the rifles we have, but I take it for granted that the rifle is of the best pattern available. He gave one reason why the government were rather chary about purchasing arms, which was the improvements going on from time to time and the urgent necessity of buying the very best. It seems to me that at some time in our lives we must reach something like perfection in the rifle that we use. I believe it is generally conceded that the rifle we have to-day is a very good weapon, and I think it should be supplied to the forces of the country in sufficient numbers to be available at any time for the needs of the country. I would also suggest to the hon. minister that the old and useless rifles might be supplied to cadet corps or cadet schools, and they might be used in other ways to stimulate military enthusiasm among the young and rising generation, because it is with these young men that we must supplement the forces we have in the field, and if you create a military spirit early in life, it will be easy to get men when you

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require them to go to the front. I think there is something in what the hon. gentleman said in regard to the restraint which these young men are under when they are sent to the front. Our young men might be dressed in some way that would be much more comfortable for them and that they might be equipped so as to enable them the more easily to carry the accoutrements with which they are supplied during the warmest time of the summer, because that is a time when they usually attend drill. There might be a style of clothing adopted better suited to the climatic conditions and the work they have to do when they are taken out for their annual drill, than the clothing that is usually supplied to them. In my opinion, that would be a great improvement, because one of the complaints they usually make when they come back from drill is that their clothing is uncomfortable. I do not think there will be any great difficulty found in getting our young men to go out and attend drill. They regard it as very much in the nature of a pleasant holiday, but I have always thought the time of drill was much too short in order to give them any adequate instruction in the movements and duties that we desire to give them knowledge of. I think the suggestion made by the hon. minister is perhaps a good one, that if we cannot afford to give them two or three weeks in camp every year we ought to give them that amount of drill every two or three years. I think military knowledge might also be promoted by company drill. I do not think we have enough company drill in the country. We have these companies all over the country, but they rarely meet at any time in the year except just before they are going to camp. A few days before they are going to camp they muster up their forces, and from that time until they are required to go out next year, there is little or nothing heard about them. They might perhaps meet a few days in the fall to do a little rifle shooting. We built some years ago expensive drill sheds and armouries and they have been allowed to rot away and little if any use has been made of them. I think we ought to have company drill from time to time. It is very important that these young men should be allowed to meet together within a radius of a few miles and have some rifle shooting. I have always thought that rifle shooting was one of the strongest attractions that a boy or a young man could have, and if you have more of that you will have more young men ambitious to go into the militia force, and as these young men are doing the duties of military men and experiencing the stern realities of war, their usefulness will be in proportion to their ability to shoot straight. It therefore becomes necessary to give them as much practice as possible in that line, so that in time of war they may be useful soldiers when you put them in the field.