

couple of companies to Ottawa, and in twenty-four hours or so I succeeded in procuring the very best men in the county, the very flower of the county, to come out, and in three days the battalion drill they displayed was an example—as was stated by members of Parliament at that time, to myself—to any of the older corps of the Dominion. I may state that these young men in this military organization which I speak of are nearly all temperance men. They belong, as I said on another occasion in answer to the hon. Speaker, to the Tilley wing of the great Conservative party. They are all temperance men, and the result is that they keep up their organization under singularly favorable and excellent conditions. They are always ready when they are called upon by the civil power, and I think, under the circumstances, my hon. friend, the Minister of Militia, can hardly resist the appeal which I have made to him. I think in that regard to this Bill, that in the main its provisions are excellent. I believe, with many gentlemen who have spoken, that not enough consideration is given to the rank and file. I, for one, have the greatest respect for the Militia force and the officers who command it. I do not believe that a more able, a more gentlemanly, and a more efficient body of men is to be anywhere found than are the Militia officers of Canada. I am satisfied of this after a very close connection with, and a very careful scrutiny of the acts of these men. They make great sacrifices in my own county; four or five officers there have been practically ruined in keeping up the corps; and I think that, under the circumstances, the officers should be relieved, as far as possible, from expenditure in connection with the Militia force, and that the rank and file should be given, if possible, increased pay. I have no hesitation in saying that, in the main, I am in favor of the provisions of the Bill of the hon. Minister of Militia.

Mr. CARON. I wish to say a very few words in answer to the remarks which have been made by several hon. gentlemen who have criticized this measure. The hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Lister) states that the county councils have considered it right and proper to give pay over and above the pay which the Department grants to the men. I can only congratulate the hon. gentleman and the country upon the fact that we have patriotic county councils who understand the usefulness of the Militia force to such an extent as to contribute out of their own pockets, to increase the pay of the volunteers. I can only repeat what I have already stated, that I would like and wish to see the rank and file paid more than they now receive; but it must be considered—and if hon. gentlemen will look into the question, they will find—that the Militia force of Canada is better paid than is the case in any other country in the world. I admit, however, and I know, that the pay is no remuneration in a country like this, where men find a ready market for whatever they can produce, in the way of labor, or, if agriculturists, in the way of farm products. I can understand it is very difficult indeed for any Government to lay down a schedule of pay which would meet exactly the loss of time that the men have to make; and it is a proud thing for Canada to be able to say that when the Militia force of Canada is required to drill, or is called out on active service, they do not consider the question of pay, and the men are always ready to go to the front and do their duty. I can say, after looking into this matter very closely, that we have never had any complaint from any of the militiamen as to the pay of the rank and file; and that the money—and the hon. gentleman, and officers who are now in the force, will know whether I am right in making this statement—and the increased pay given to the officers all goes into the pockets of the rank and file, for the purpose of keeping up in a state of efficiency the bands, and of allowing the men to go, on occasions like the Queen's Birthday or Dominion Day, from one city to another, to keep alive the feeling of brotherhood

which should exist, in any such force, in any country; and I say that this money, which we are now giving to the city corps, in thus simply extending to the city corps the privileges which have been accorded to the rural corps, all goes into the pockets of the rank and file indirectly, and they all so understand it, and are willing so to consider it. The hon. member for Lambton also stated that, out of the great surplus which, through the hon. Minister of Finance, we have been able to announce to the country, we should give increased pay to the rank and file. I have heard hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House accuse me of extravagance, and state that the money which was expended for the Militia force was uselessly expended; but I would like to ask these hon. gentlemen to remember that when this force was called upon to fight the battles of their country they did so in a way that would have been creditable to any force in any country, and I believe that the people of Canada will not refuse to contribute the amount of money which we are expending on the Militia, because I believe that the Militia of Canada is giving more than value for the amount which we expend upon them. I would not be expressing my own views as Minister of Militia, having had the opportunity of looking into the records of that force, if I did not state that the Militia force, for the amount of money which Canada has expended upon it, has been a force which has rendered services which Canada never can repay. It is not the insignificant sum of 50 cts. per day which will induce men to come out and fight the battles which they have been called upon to fight, but it is the feeling that in doing so they are doing their duty to their country and their flag which induces the men to leave their ordinary avocation or business in life, and put in twelve days' drill in camp for the purpose of being ready in case of emergency. My hon. friend the member for Middlesex (Mr. Ross) for once has been perfectly satisfied. The hon. gentleman, I am happy to say, takes a great interest in Militia matters, and I have explained to him that this Inspector of Artillery was not at all an increase so far as the present intentions of the Government are concerned. The hon. gentleman will find out that it is right and proper, in framing a measure of this kind, to provide for the possibility of appointing such an officer, though, as he will see when the Estimates come down, we did not provide for his appointment at present, though it was right in framing a Bill of this kind that we should give every possible security as to the intentions of the Government, and for that reason we fixed his salary at the same amount which is paid to the Adjutant-General. It may be necessary at one time or another to provide work for that officer, but unless it becomes necessary no expenditure will be incurred on that account. As to the position of the Quartermaster-General, I must refer the hon. gentleman to the explanations which I have been called upon to give, in which he will see that the position and duties of that officer had been perfectly defined. The hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) has stated that the expenditure upon the staff is too great. I would ask the hon. gentleman to look into this expenditure, and consider if he thinks that expenditure too great when he takes into account the efficiency of these men, and their ability in every way to occupy the responsible positions which they are called upon to fill. I can also point my hon. friend to the reduction which has taken place in the expenditure upon the staff since I have had the honor of presiding over the Militia Department, and he will see that that expenditure has been reduced to the extent of \$11,100 per annum. These gentlemen give up their time, they have had to leave their own business or vocation, and they have adopted the military profession, which, in a country like Canada, is not a paying profession; they have done their duty well, and I believe that the staff of Canada is less paid than that of any staff of equal efficiency in any other country. I quite agree with the hon. member for Laval (Mr.