

ter, on his own showing, stands confessed as not believing in the efficiency of the system as now administered. As I understand, we are now attempting to maintain a force of about 40,000 men.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. 37,000.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Now, I recognize the political difficulty which stands in the Minister's way, if he attempts to reduce this force. That is no doubt a practical difficulty, although it ought not to exist in dealing with military matters. But, be our force large or small, it should be made efficient. With respect to what I said about camps, I am well aware that there are camps and camps. I am well aware there are some camps in which a creditable exhibit is made on the part of our volunteer soldiers; but there are other camps of which that cannot be said, and in which, unless I have been most grievously misinformed, the public money used to maintain them, is nearly altogether wasted. As far as instruction in marksmanship and rifle shooting is concerned, I need not tell the Minister, and I need not tell anyone who has witnessed the performance of our volunteers, that it is impossible to give it in the space of time at our disposal; and now-a-days, although, as I have said, I venture any remarks on military subjects with deference, I have no doubt that the efficiency of any such force depends in a very large degree on the skill in the use of the rifle obtained by the individual soldier, and that is tending to be the case more and more. I raised the question in a tentative fashion last night, and I think the Government—they can do it now—should seriously consider whether they will not adopt some one or other alternative systems, if they see fit to come down and demand more money, if the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Militia can make it up between them. If, as I rather suspect, the hon. gentleman has to make the most of the money at his disposal now, then I think it is high time for him to consider what course he will adopt: whether he will enlarge the vote at his disposal by reducing some of these other estimates, although they may be good in their way, and reduce the vote for some of the fixed forces; or whether he will reduce the number of the militia corps to such a point that he can get fair instruction for all; or whether he will try the plan of keeping the skeleton organization of non-commissioned or commissioned officers in a high state of efficiency. I am not prepared to say off-hand which would prove the best in the end, but the present system is pre-eminently unsatisfactory, and some effort should be made to get more value for our money than we do under the present system.

Mr. DENISON. I am glad the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) has somewhat modified the remarks he made last night. Knowing the great interest he always takes in militia matters, I was rather surprised to find him pitching into the camps as he did. But the hon. gentleman has qualified his criticism to-day by saying there are "camps and camps," and in that he is no doubt correct. I have not attended the camp at Kingston, but I have almost every year attended the camp at Niagara, and I can testify strongly to the good effect it has on that portion of the militia force of Canada. I might say with respect to the remark made that the day going to camp and the day returning from camp are wasted is hardly correct. It must be remembered that it

is part of an officer's duty to know how to entrain and detrain his men. A further part of his work is to instruct his men how to pitch their tents, and this is part of the work on the first day. This is a most important part of his duty, and the men learn to do it quickly by practice. The same remark applies to the task of striking tents, which is also part of their duty. After a few days' practice it is astonishing how the men improve, and do the work rapidly and efficiently that was at first so difficult. Altogether, the duties in camp, even for the short time we have at disposal, have a most valuable effect on the men. Personally I should like to see the time increased to 16 or 20 days; but before we endeavour to secure a longer time, we must have all the militia drilled. For myself I am strongly opposed to having the force reduced; in fact my idea has always been that the force should be increased. Where there are localities which desire to raise battalions or companies the Government should authorize them to do so, because we cannot hope to have too large an organization, for if we have trouble, as was referred to the other night by the hon. member for South Perth (Mr. Trow), with our neighbours to the south, we could not have too large a force. It would be necessary, then, to have a large number of trained officers, and that was the reason I suggested the other day that if we could engraft on the present scheme some such system as we had before, it would be advantageous to us to have those men in our midst. No doubt some men would go into the schools for the purpose of getting the \$50. Even so; those going through the schools would acquire a taste for military matters and take an interest in the force and join our battalions, and repay the amount of money that might be expended in that way. Further, those men who would enter the force for the \$50 would not leave Canada, and they would possess the knowledge, and in case of trouble they would come into the ranks and do good service. I think the whole force should be drilled. Every session I have pressed on the attention of the Minister of Militia and the House the desirability of drilling the rural corps as well as the city corps. The rural corps, as a matter of fact, have not the same advantages as city corps possess. The city corps, having drill halls, can turn out at night and drill with very little loss to themselves, while the rural corps are unable to drill at night on account of the companies being scattered, and the distance the men are from company headquarters. The rural corps, therefore, require to be concentrated in camps and drilled every year more than the city corps, not that I am saying but what they should all drill. I hope next year the Minister of Militia will press the subject on his colleagues and secure the granting of a sufficient sum to drill the whole militia. Possibly he may be able to curtail some of the expenditure on the staff. I know our late Premier frequently said we had too large a staff. It seems a large sum to spend out of \$1,225,000 nearly \$1,000,000 on staff and paraphernalia, if I may use the term, while only \$250,000 really goes to pay the drilling of the militia. By an additional grant of \$150,000 we could obtain much benefit to the force, and that sum, added to \$1,250,000, is not a large sum, while it would do a great deal to further the interests of the militia and enable all the corps to drill.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I have only a few words to say in addition to what has been said by the hon.