

Mr. CARVELL. That is what I am coming at. You never can get the average militia officer to go to the central school at Kingston or any other place. We have been trying that ever since the inauguration of this system of training. Once in a while there is a man who is an enthusiast and has plenty of money who will go, but I am safe in saying that perhaps the greatest detriment to the militia is the rich man's son. The man who is able to get a commission because he has some money or because he is rich is the most useless piece of furniture that you can have in a regiment.

Mr. GRAHAM. That is not personal to any of us. You cannot offend any of us in that way.

Mr. CARVELL. I can tell the minister, and I know that he must have met it in his own experience that there are dozens of young men who have accepted commissions, and who have been compelled to allow these commissions to lapse simply because they could not afford the time to go to the schools of instruction. In my own constituency there are bright young men who would be a credit to any commission, but they are trying to earn their own living and the only policy is to bring the instructor to the officer even if you have only three or four officers to bring him to. In the last three or four months, officers—I do not say the general staff—but men very high up in the headquarters staff, have discouraged the formation of these schools, and have told officers in the maritime provinces that they cannot send men down there to hold these schools, but that they must send their officers to Kingston. I presume that possibly if a man went to Kingston and took the three months course, where he would be in contact with the regulars, he might perhaps get a better training than he could get at home, but if you cannot get your officer to go there is it not better to send the instructor to him? That raises another question, and I hope the hon. minister will not think I am unduly criticising him if I find fault with the class of instruction which is given in the artillery and engineer's courses. To-day the education of the engineer officer is a strictly technical, mathematical proposition. An officer who had received his artillery training fifteen years ago would not know by the language what they were talking about to-day if he went to school and attempted to take a course, or if he went before a battery or a company of engineers and attempted to instruct them, especially in artillery. A man who is not abreast of the higher mathematics, geometry and trigonometry, is not in a position to understand what

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria).

they are talking about. I will give an illustration. Not long ago I visited a camp of instruction in Canada and I found an artillery officer, a sergeant, who had been sent down to instruct the brigade in field artillery. He was engaged in range taking, he went through a certain formula, and he announced that the range was so much. I happened to be there as an interested on-looker, and I told him he was wrong. He said: I am right, and I said: You are wrong, because you are violating one of the principles of mathematics, which is that the two sides of a triangle together are greater than the third side. I got him to go over his formula again, and he found that he was wrong. This instructor did not know whether he was right or wrong. I realize the difficulty my hon. friend will have in getting men who are mathematical scholars, but if he is going to make the engineers and artillery work what it should be in this country and which can only be made possible by the efficient education which they should receive, and without which they might as well stay at home, because if they came into actual hostilities they would only be massacred, he cannot afford to spare money to give this proper education to the officers.

I hope the minister will see that the education is taken by the officer, and above all that the right kind of education is so taken. An ordinary drill sergeant sent around the country cannot instruct officers on these technical questions. Within the last week I have been trying to get a school in my own town, and I was practically told that I must have a brigade and a certain number of officers and non-commissioned officers, and my reply to the minister was that if you had to get a class of twenty or thirty in some of these localities you would not have a class at all. If you are going to have the militia of any value as a force you have to spend money in the proper way, and I am speaking from experience. If the minister would send his instructors to organize the schools wherever he could get three or four officers together there would be much more value obtained for the money.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I agree with my hon. friend (Mr. Carvell) on the question of the schools, and the first act I did after becoming Minister of Militia was to try to carry out his idea. We have seventy of the best non-commissioned officers on the force going all over the country this winter. The technical education relates to engineers and to artillery, and is the kind of education the staff officers of the old country are giving to our officers and non-commissioned officers throughout Canada. In Quebec there is Major Robert-