

ing is before hay making time. But, if for some reason the drilling time is somewhat delayed, these difficulties become almost insurmountable, unless provided for with an augmentation as it was done at the time of the tercentenary feasts at Quebec when the indemnity was raised from \$1 to \$2. The existing indemnity rate of \$1 is not inducing the farmers to hire their best horses when these are so much exposed to accidents of all kinds owing to bad weather and transportation. Should the pay be more liberal, the value of the horses would be superior and the soldiers' services more effective. Besides that, there are the indemnities in the case of accidents or wounds which do not cover the loss of the animal. There lies the clue to the greater difficulties that we have to meet with in the country when we want to hire good horses, and, that accounts for the fact that we often are supplied with a quality of horses far inferior to the real cavalry horses. Owing to these reasons, I would not be opposed to indemnity rate being raised by the hon. minister to \$1.25 or even \$1.50 a day. In certain localities of the country, it may be easier to secure cavalry horses for the present indemnity rate; but, in the part where I have the honour to command a cavalry squadron, it is not so. I again say that it would be a good policy on the part of the hon. minister to make the augmentation that I propose and that has anyhow been suggested by many others.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria, Ont.). I fully appreciate all that the hon. gentleman has said in regard to the small sum paid for horses taken by the young men to camp. They have to be exposed to all kinds of weather and to other unfavourable conditions; but year by year there is an improvement in the class of horses, and we hope that next year we shall be able materially to assist our friends all along the line. What my hon. friend says about the value of the horses taken to camp is true, and to meet that the department has raised the indemnity for a horse that is lost or injured from \$125 to \$175. The department is always ready to deal generously in the case of horses injured or killed in camp. The remarks which the hon. gentleman has made meet my hearty approval, and the matter will receive the consideration of the department.

Mr. BOYER. Mr. Speaker, the military regulations do not permit to enlist recruits under 18 years of age. Nevertheless, we have in the country strong young men under 18 years who are well built and would be splendid cavaliers. Last year, when I had to enlist cavaliers for the squadron which I command, I experienced some difficulty to find young men of 18 years and more

because the majority of those whose age is in conformity with the regulations are busy on the farm. It would have been possible to fill in the number needed for the squadron with young men under 18 who are well developed, robust lads; for, after all, our aim is chiefly to get good cavaliers, and the young folks in the country commence very young to go on horseback. It is a sport for youngsters. The enlisting work would be far easier if we had the liberty to select our recruits among the oldest cadets, and even besides them, amongst the young men whose physical qualities, in the matter of development would make them suitable. I consider that the department should give the commanding officers of force more latitude as regards the field of action.

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). The hon. member has referred to the fact that it is difficult at certain seasons of the year to recruit from men over the age of eighteen, and he has pointed out that to which I made reference this afternoon, that the young soldier is very often the best soldier. It has been my custom never to ask a young man his age, so long as he was large enough and manly enough to fill the uniform. On one occasion a young man who was a non-commissioned officer in charge of an outpost, was brought before his commanding officer, who asked him, 'how old are you?' 'Do you mean my official age, or my real age?' he asked, and he gave both. His official age was 21, his real age 17. When I commanded a regiment, my custom was to have a large contingent of young men in the service. At Rigaud college, my hon. friend has a very excellent cadet corps, and if he can make satisfactory arrangements to ensure that these young men will be looked after, I have no doubt that he can get a splendid lot of recruits from them.

Mr. BOYER. Does the hon. minister mean to say that we could ignore the regulation which exists to-day concerning the recruiting of young men which I have just spoken of?

Mr. HUGHES (Victoria). I am only making suggestions, not laying down the law.

Mr. CARVELL. The minister says the department has always been very generous in paying claims for injuries to horses. My experience has been quite the reverse, and I hope he will take some trouble to look into the manner in which the department has been paying for damages to horses in the past. I think he will find that not only has the patience of the owner been exhausted before he has been paid, but he