

point is that we are going on from year to year without any proper equipment for the force. Not a single company in the whole country is in a position to turn out for actual service, because they have no proper equipment. It would be a serious matter to supply equipment for the whole force, but if the minister could set apart about \$5,000 each year, in the course of a few years the whole force would be properly and easily equipped. It seems ridiculous to keep up an active force, and yet for the sake of a few thousand dollars, keep it out of the most necessary articles of equipment, if called upon to perform active service.

LT.-COL. KIRKPATRICK—I should like to say a few words in support of the suggestion of the hon. member for Oxford (Capt. Sutherland), with respect to helmets. I do not see why volunteers should not be supplied with headgear; helmets are as much a part of the uniform as are trousers, and perhaps it would be as well to supply them with helmets and let the trousers go. If the Department undertake to supply the men with uniforms, they should supply them with helmets as well as with trousers and the usual clothing. I think that with regard to the uniforms a good deal of money might be saved if there was a little more inspection exercised and greater care taken in the issuing of them. It is absurd to say that this fine cloth which we hear so much about, when made into tunics will last for only twenty-four days, and yet that is all that is given as the life of a tunic. These tunics are issued for five years, so that the tunic is only used for twenty-four days in camp, and a new issue of clothing is then made.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—Not always.

LT.-COL. KIRKPATRICK—Yes, always. As soon as the five years have elapsed the commanding officer makes a demand on the Militia Department for a complete set of uniform and he gets a suit for every man in the regiment, no matter whether the uniform is worn out or not. I believe that a tunic wears as long as two pair of trousers and I hold that if a proper inspection were made by an officer who would go around the armouries, half the tunics now discarded would be found serviceable and in this way a great deal of money would be saved to the Department.

MR. CASEY—I quite agree with the remarks of my hon. friends from Muskoka (Lt.-Col. O'Brien) and Frontenac (Lt.-Col. Kirkpatrick) with regard to the issue of helmets. I remember when I was a volunteer in the Queen's Own we had to go out in a Glengarry cap in all kinds of weather and the result was that I and many others had our faces sunburnt and our eyes closed up and that we were rendered practically unfit for duty. It is not fair to ask a man who has been accustomed to indoor work, as most of the members of the city battalions are, to go out in the fierce sun wearing a forage cap or Glengarry. Even the farmer although out in the open air is accustomed to wear a big hat which protects his face. Neither is it fair to ask men to buy helmets when they are out in the public service. I have been asked to call the attention of the Minister to the report of the Executive Committee of the Ontario Artillery Association, which says:

"This Committee again recommends as necessary for the proper maintenance and efficiency of the Artillery:

(1.) An increase in the annual grant to the Dominion Artillery Association. (2.) As Provincial and other Rifle Associations receive grants from the Dominion Government, that this Association should be placed upon a similar footing. (3.) An issue of extra clothing to drivers and gunners; this has been asked for time and again."

I find on referring to the Hansard of 1888 that the Minister promised in the early part of last year to make an issue of this clothing, but I do not think it has been done. The report continues:—

"(4.) Payment for six days preliminary drill before proceeding to camp. (5.) Payment to non-commissioned officers and men of the pay of their rank with allowances and transport, during the time allowed for target practice."

This seems a reasonable request, because when the men are out for target practice they are practically on active service. The other recommendations in the report are:

"(6.) The establishment of a School for Field Artillery at Kingston; there being only one Garrison Battery in the Province a semi-Field and Garrison School is not necessary. (7.) That pay for four spare horses be allowed during annual drill in order to allow for casualties, as the experience of the past fourteen years show that this is really requisite for any pretence to any true efficiency. (8.) That the Militia Department be requested to have an inspection made by the Inspector and Assistant Inspector of Artillery of all stores at Battery headquarters at some time other than during annual drill, when only a partial inspection of such harness, stores, &c., as exist, is possible, it being a well known fact that very few of the Ontario batteries have more than eight sets of harness, and that most of the waggons are useless for any service."

These were recommended at a representative meeting of officers from all parts of Ontario at the Artillery Association meeting held in Toronto in January last. I wish to call the attention of the minister to those recommendations and although I have no personal knowledge of them, as I never was connected with the artillery branch, yet they seem to be based on common sense, and I hope the minister will give due attention to the matter. Perhaps he will give his opinion now as to how many of these recommendations he can see his way to adopt.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—The member for Halifax (Hon. Mr. Jones) has spoken of the extra expense incurred by manufacturing the cartridges in Canada instead of importing them from England. I cannot exactly understand how the hon. gentleman arrives at the conclusion that the Canadian cartridges cost \$3 per thousand more than the cartridges which are manufactured in England. The reports which have been handed to me by the officers of my department show that the cartridges manufactured in Canada cost \$18.84 a thousand. The Snider ball cartridges manufactured in England cost \$14.92 a thousand and the Martini-Henry's \$18.75. Let me draw the attention of the committee to the fact that the cartridges for the Snider-Enfield rifle are no longer manufactured in England, and hence it would be impossible to get any supply from England, and unless we change the arm used by our forces in Canada it is necessary for us to manufacture our own ammunition here instead of importing it from England. I can tell the hon. gentleman that the cartridge factory is conducted under the superintendence of a gentleman who is known to all those who take an interest in militia matters to be a great authority on this matter, and that not only in Canada alone, but also in England, because of the great success which has attended his efforts in manufacturing the cartridges.

MR. CASEY—Who is that?

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—Major Prévost. The manufacture of cartridges was like many other things introduced into a country like this. The beginnings were rather difficult, and we felt at one time that we were not obtaining that good success which those who are administering the department as well as the members of the force desired to obtain. However, I am proud to tell you, not only from the opinion expressed by Canadians, but also by men abroad who have been following the different steps we have taken in the development of the manufacture of cartridges, that Canada is to-day manufacturing cartridges which are superior to any cartridges which we have ever been able to obtain from England or any other country. Now, I wish to lay before the House the statements which have been sent to me from different parts of the Dominion with regard to the ammunition manufactured in Canada. These letters, I may say, have been sent to me without asking for them. I read a letter signed by Lieut.-Col. Bedson, the president of the Rifle Association of Manitoba:

"I have the honour to state that the Snider ball ammunition manufactured in the Cartridge Factory of Quebec, of 1888 issue, was used by the Manitoba Rifle Association during their recent matches, and was universally commended by the marksmen. It is undoubtedly the best ammunition of this kind ever used by this association."

I read also a letter which was sent to me by Captain Walter Macdonald, in which speaking of the Canadian ammunition of 1888 issue, he says:

"I think its present standard, if kept up, will stand the test of the Provincial and Dominion matches, and prove to be as good as No. 9 English, if not better."

I also read a letter from Lieut.-Col. Bond, of the Provincial Rifle Association of Montreal, stating:

"I did not find a single complaint regarding the shooting qualities of the ammunition. They are looked on as quite equal to the best English ever made or ever sent out here."

Major Weston, of the 66th Princess Louise Fusiliers, Halifax, in a letter says:

"The make of this year, so far as used here, has given the utmost satisfaction, and the scores made with it are equal to those made when the English make was used. I have not had the opportunity to test it personally, but our shooting men have given me their opinion strongly upon this point. I take this opportunity of giving you the opinion here, and after our Provincial matches I will give you the opinion of the competitors also of that match."

Here is a letter also from Lieut.-Col. Holmes, who is the commandant of "C" Battery, B.C., and who is known among riflemen as one who has always taken a deep interest in rifle practice, and is one of the best shots:

"I must say that what we have just used is really as good and reliable as any I have ever seen anywhere, and I should be a judge, as I stood fifth in the Wimbledon team of 1873, and have always been a fair average shot. Peters also concurs with me as to its good quality, and speaks highly of it, and says that all the tests have shown that it is superior to any which we have had so far."

Remembering what hon. members of this House who are also members of the force, and who have taken a great deal of interest in our rifle practice, have said on a former occasion, I think these letters dispose at once and forever of the question of the success of the cartridge factory at Quebec. Like everything else, the manufacture of cartridges there at first was possibly not as cheaply carried on as it might have been, but the factory is conducted as economically as it is possible to have it conducted. During the troubles in the North West we had to put on extra hands, and these could not be disposed of at a moment's notice; but the staff is being reduced every day, and is being reduced so rapidly that with the exception of a very few hands who could not be dispensed with just at present, I think it will be found that the factory cannot be carried on more economically than it is. We must remember that we have within the borders of the Dominion a factory which makes us practically independent of any other market, and we can at a