

of non-commissioned officers or privates. What we want is to have men with certificates in the country, so that in case of trouble in the land, they could be given commissions and could drill the yeoman of the country. I see that Col. Smith, who commands No. 1 district, has made some very practical remarks in this direction. He says:

"For many years to come our militia must be our main defence, and it should be placed on the best footing possible both as to efficiency and numbers, but numbers or corps rather than men. If we have a large number of well organized and expansive bodies, they can be rapidly filled up when the need arises, but it is a difficult task to organize the bodies in case of danger"

These remarks are somewhat in the line of the argument I made in this House last year in favour of our militia being increased. I then advocated an increase of 100,000, and I hope still the Government will see their way clear to have a considerable increase. I would like to have some opinion from the Minister of Militia as to what he considers can be done with reference to the idea I have thrown out, of allowing the men to obtain certificates in the schools without having to live in them as officers or privates.

LT.-COL. KIRKPATRICK—There is a great deal in what the hon. and gallant Col. from West Toronto states. The great difficulty at present is to get qualified officers for our rural battalions. If we have qualified officers and good non-commissioned officers, it is easy enough to get the men, as there is plenty martial spirit in the country, and in time of danger any number of volunteers can be got. But what we are deficient in is competent officers and non-commissioned officers, and it is to train these that the schools are established. Do the schools fulfil that duty? Well, the officers and non-commissioned officers who go through the schools are very well trained, but we have not a sufficient number going through. I have tried to find out why it is that the officers and men from the rural battalions hesitate to go to these schools, and I find the reason is the expense. First of all, they have to provide themselves with uniforms, and then they have to provide mess uniforms. It is not necessary under the regulations to provide the latter. I believe they can wear their tunics, but they do not as a rule care to go to mess in buttoned up tunics, and they like to have this mess uniform which costs a great deal of money. Then they join the mess, which adds to their expense, so that parents object to their sons going to these schools on both this account and on account of the danger the cadets run of contracting idle habits while living in barracks. I believe if the men attending the schools were allowed to board outside, and to attend their drills during drill hours, there would be a better attendance. It would be better if the compulsory attendance was done away with, and the officers could go to these schools without being compelled to remain in a barracks. Mothers do not want to send their young sons from 15 to 18 years of age, just when they feel this martial spirit and want to qualify for a commission to barrack life, but prefer to send them to board with friends where they might be looked after and to whom they could go home at night. If that system were adopted we would have a larger attendance in the schools and a more useful military force than at present, for if we can get plenty of competent officers and non-commissioned officers, we can get the men at any time.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—It would not be practicable to carry out the scheme suggested by the hon. and gallant colonel from Toronto (Mr. Denison). The schools are not numerous enough, and we can only train men who go in for the long and the short course. There would be great difficulty in maintaining discipline if those attending the schools were not bound by the regulations of the militia force of Canada. As to what the hon. member from Frontenac (Mr. Kirkpatrick) has said about the expense of living in barracks, I do not see how it could be possible to give proper training to the militia men in the batteries and infantry schools if they were not obliged to live in barracks. One of the important branches of their studies is internal economy, and they can only learn that in the barracks. As to the uniform, there is no reason why there should be expense. A man wears the uniform of his corps, no matter to what branch of the service he belongs, so that really I do not see any very great expense incurred. As to the loss of time in barracks, judging by the reports we have, the men who follow the course are kept busy pretty near all the time. The hon. member for South Oxford has asked me the details of expenditure incurred in the different schools and batteries of the Dominion. First, there is a lieutenant colonel commanding, pay of \$4 a day; allowance, Inspector of Artillery, \$1.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—I was asking in reference chiefly to the hon. gentleman's proposed reduction, and as he had taken a vote for \$522,700, I want to know the total expenditure incurred on those services last year.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—Last year we expended \$431,983. A deduction of \$30,700 has been made in the amount of the total estimate for the forts. This, however, does not imply any proposed reduction in the numerical strength of the artillery, cavalry, and military schools as at present ordered,

LT.-COL. DENISON—I entirely disagree with the hon. the Minister of Militia in his remarks. I attended one of these schools some twenty years ago, and I know the discipline of the men while in the schools was just as good as it is in the schools to-day, the only difference being that instead of the cadets going to the barracks at night and sleeping there, they went to their homes or boarding houses. And during the days when they had their ordinary duties to perform and to learn the interior economy of their force, they went with their non-commissioned officers, and obtained a knowledge of that interior economy as they do now. The only difference was that, instead of sleeping in barracks each night, they slept in their own quarters, and I do not see why there should be any difficulty in regard to the numbers. At that time four or five non-commissioned officers were told off from the regular army, as they could now be told off from the schools, and they formed the staff of the school. They did the drilling, and that was all that was required. At that time they generally had in the Toronto school 200 or 300 at a time, while now I believe they never have more than 50 or 60.

MR. BARRON—I cannot speak of my own knowledge in regard to the discipline to-day, but I know from my own experience that the remarks of the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Denison), as to the past are correct. When I went through a military school I went to my own lodgings at night, and I know that during the day the military discipline was thoroughly carried out and no fault was ever found with it. The hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Kirkpatrick) has referred to the necessity of having additional competent officers, and that seems to be the view of the Major-General, who says in his report: "One thing necessary is an increase of competent officers with a view to the discipline and efficiency of the force." I would ask the Minister of Militia whether he has taken any steps to carry out that recommendation. We import the major-general at great expense from the old country, though I think that is unnecessary, because we have just as competent men here, but if we have him here, we should carry out his recommendations.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—We are carrying out every year the recommendations of the Major-General by training each year a larger number of competent officers in our schools. The Major-General does not attack the present system, but says that the number of competent officers should be increased, and we are doing the best we can through our schools to get a greater number of competent officers.

LT.-COL. PRIOR—Before this item passes I desire to say a few words as to "C" Battery which is placed in British Columbia. I am sorry to see that the Minister of Militia has not seen fit to place an amount in the estimates sufficient to complete the barracks for that battery.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—That does not come under my estimates. That is under public work.

LT.-COL. PRIOR—We were promised the advent of that battery, but we had almost given up all hopes of seeing them when at last they arrived, and we were very glad to welcome our brothers in arms from the east. At that time there were no proper barracks for them and there are not yet. The only place which was at all fit to receive them was what is called the agricultural hall, which is not at all suited to the purpose for which it is now being used. It is simply a board shed, battened. When the weather is good, as every one knows it always is in British Columbia in the summer, it is all well enough, but in the winter it is altogether unfit for the purpose of barracks. The battery arrived in Victoria in October, 1887, and I think it was in December, 1887, that the Minister of Militia paid us a visit and inspected "C" Battery and the local militia. At a banquet which was given to him there, the hon. gentleman stated to those present that he had bought a site for the erection of the barracks, that a contract had been let, and that the barracks would be completed at once. No doubt the hon. gentleman meant what he said at the time, but his promise, like a good many more promises, has been broken, for up to the present time the only thing which has been done has been to erect three small huts for the gunners. There are no quarters for the officers, there is no cook house, there are no cells, there are no married sergeants' quarters, no married men's quarters, no parade ground, but simply three huts in the midst of a dense wood. I cannot blame the Minister of Militia, because there may be circumstances over which he has no control. Last year he told us he was in the hands of the Finance Minister. I trust the Finance Minister and the Minister of Militia will put their heads together and see if they cannot do more justice to these men, for it is an injustice to treat them—as fine a body of men as can be found in the world—in the manner in which they are being treated. In regard to the pay of these men, the officers particularly are labouring under great disadvantages in being stationed in British Columbia, because of the great difference in the cost of living between British Columbia and the east. I know that all Imperial officers who have been stationed in Victoria or Esquimalt have got an extra allowance on account of the extra cost of living there. I have a letter from a gentleman who has been for the last two years an Imperial army officer, in which he says: