

Only about half these numbers have been drilled during the past two years, the Militia estimates having been reduced by about one-half. On this point, and everything connected with his command, Lieutenant-General Commanding Sir Selby Smyth, has furnished a most complete and exhaustive report, which I cannot do better than quote and recommend you to read for further information. He states :—

“ When first I came to Canada, I believe the Parliamentary grant for the Militia amounted to about a million and a half of dollars per annum, and with that sum the 42,000 men annually trained in brigade camps for the full period allowed by law. The following and each succeeding year the vote was decreased, until last year it amounted to less than one million dollars, out of which the maintenance of the Royal Military College and the North-West Mounted Police have become a charge upon it. Therefore the paid training of the Militia has been reduced to a minimum, only one-half the force being embodied for twelve days’ drill in each year, and such training as that amounts to is almost useless, being really little more than an armed muster at battalion and company head-quarters.

“ The Militia grant last year was exactly 931,956 dollars, from which deduct 306,356 dollars for North-West Mounted Police, and 50,000 dollars for the Royal Military College, leaving somewhat more than half-a-million dollars for militia purposes proper, and the supply of all warlike stores.”

“ The supply of military stores takes a considerable portion of this grant. It comprises clothing for the whole force, which has to be frequently renewed, and for the two gunnery schools, twice a year, great coats, rifles and material for their repair, ammunition, field and garrison guns, saddlery, gunpowder, as well as accoutrements and equipments of every description that an army requires. So that in fact, after deducting besides salaries, pay for drill instruction to Captains, storekeepers, rent for armouries and storehouses, fuel and light, artillery and rifle association allowances, band pay, targets, drill sheds, rifle ranges and contingencies for general service not otherwise provided for, there remains for the drill pay and incidental expenses attendant on drill and training, only the meagre and insufficient sum of 155,000 dollars, or about 30,000*l.* sterling. This sum is quite inadequate to keep the 42,000 Militia of Canada in a proper state of training and effectiveness, amounting approximately to the annual cost of a single British battalion of the line. What progress can a General Officer make in this case? He can only feel himself a source of disappointment to the excellent and loyal body of Officers and men under his command, who look to him for support.”

General Remarks.

Given the every-day life of a people and their physical surroundings, and it is not difficult to form a true estimate of the character of

¹ One suit cloth, one serge, per annum, with an allowance to keep up winter underclothing.