

made to enable students at McGill to meet certain expenditures incident to their taking advantage of the rifle range within four or five miles of Montreal. We passed certain regulations applying to all the universities in Canada and are asking the committee to vote \$4,000 to aid students in universities to become proficient in rifle shooting.

Mr. FOSTER. What will that \$1,000 do for each one?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. \$4,000. When we come to the financial side of it, I will be able to tell my hon. friend exactly. I have an estimate on that point. The Ross rifle factory has been established and although we have not received any of the rifles yet, I believe 1,000 have been distributed to the Northwest Mounted Police and some 500 to the Department of Marine and Fisheries. There are 9,000 or 10,000 practically ready to be issued to the militia, but we have not yet taken delivery of them. I am informed that the rifle is a very good one and compares favourably with any rifle in the world.

Mr. TISDALE. Has it been finally passed on and accepted?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Yes.

Mr. TISDALE. The improvements are complete?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Mark II is a decided improvement on mark I, and has been accepted and a special rifle agreed upon as a pattern. An inter-departmental committee has been appointed as between this department and the Department of Public Works for determining the plans upon which military buildings should be constructed. That is resulting satisfactorily, and I have here certain plans which have been adopted for armouries of different sizes, which we hope to be able to apply according to the requirements of the various districts.

Even if it is late in the session I think these matters are of sufficient importance to justify our taking a reasonable time to discuss them. In view of the large and increasing expenditure on the militia I have been trying to ascertain some means by which we would be able to very largely increase the possibilities of getting efficient troops in the event of their being required, without too great expense to the state. It is not a new idea. In England and in Australia efforts are being made to enlist the support of the local authorities in the schools. In Australia the government of the different states have met the Minister of Defence of the Commonwealth and have come to an agreement as to certain things which should be done partly by the local authorities and partly by the central authorities in connection with the education and training of the boys in the schools, in rifle shooting and military physical exercises. We might look hopefully in this direction

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and I intend—I have done it to some extent already—to communicate with all the governments of the provinces and ask them to send representatives to meet the Militia Council here at a convenient time to see whether we cannot agree upon some basis by which we should adopt some uniform plan throughout Canada for educating and training our youth in the schools. I will not detain the committee to mention the details of my idea further than to say that in the normal schools some provision might be made by which each male teacher of a certain grade should acquire certain military qualifications. I have been much interested in an article in the 'Nineteenth Century' magazine by the Right Hon. the Earl of Meath who is devoting a great deal of intelligent attention to this subject, and as what he says cannot be improved upon I will take the liberty of reading one or two extracts:

If there be no chance of obtaining conscription, which I do not want, nor of obtaining the adoption of the militia ballot, what is to be done? Something must be done, or it is absolutely certain that if we are at war with any great power we shall find ourselves in a very awkward position. It cannot be said that the present Secretary of State for War has been very successful in solving the problem. The objections to adult compulsory military service may be summed up as follows: (1) the infringement of the liberty of the adult citizen; (2) the interference with his industrial pursuits; (3) the disorganization caused to trade, commerce and agriculture by the withdrawal of men from their prosecution; (4) the moral objection to the housing of large numbers of men in barracks. None of these objections would be applicable to the training of lads during the educative period of their lives. The liberty of boys is always restrained with universal consent. They are not asked whether they will learn to read or write, but are compelled by law to submit to tuition. What would be the hardship of requiring our lads to perfect themselves in another branch of knowledge, that of being able to use the rifle? It would be exceedingly popular. The lads would like it. They would not attempt to run away from it; they would look upon it as a sport. Such training could be given so as not in the least to interfere with their preparation for the business of life. On the contrary, the discipline and healthy exercise would improve their health, strengthen their moral and physical fibre and add to their professional, industrial or labour value when they attained to manhood and entered on the serious business of their lives. If it be considered inadvisable to make shooting with a rifle a compulsory subject in our schools like reading, writing and arithmetic—though why it should not be placed on the same footing as the latter subjects it is difficult to understand—then at least let it be encouraged by the government and by the school authorities; and let facilities be given to all healthy boys over fourteen to render themselves under proper supervision and guidance, efficient in this manly exercise.

If training in youth were made universal, not only would the adult male be capable of taking his place in the ranks, but, what is of