

several days to place the country corps in the field, but that many of them were in the field within twenty-four hours, and indeed as soon as city corps. In regard to the increase in salary I must say again, notwithstanding what has been said by the hon. member for Muskoka (Mr. O'Brien), that it is much more important to pay the privates than the officers, for every increase appears to be in the direction of the latter, and as going towards city corps, and to make up the artificiality of military life as a nation. I hold that we have a right to criticise this Bill because we, in the rural districts, will, in a large measure, have to pay the money, and this Bill will leave another law on the Statute-book which will cause increases from year to year, and which will be defended on the ground that the Bill at the time was acknowledged to be a right and proper one. The Bill appears to create other officers, whose pay some will consider extravagant, and in that and other ways, a large additional amount will be needed every year to pay the demands for that service. The hon. member for Muskoka said that, considering the importance of our country and its population, we are paying a very small sum for defensive purposes. This is a very young country, and there are no signs of danger; and if we take \$773,000 for the Militia Department, \$416,000 for the Mounted Police, and if we add the increase which will naturally occur under this Act, amounting to \$125,000 or \$150,000, these items amount to a very considerable sum. It is time we should consider if this expenditure is to go on increasing from year to year, what we are to receive for it, especially if there is not some curtailment, especially at a time when there is very little evidence of an increased demand for such a standing army.

Mr. VAIL. The hon. member for Laval has referred to the salaries paid to Deputy Adjutants-General, viz.: \$1,200. It must be remembered that they are granted \$500 as allowances, which increases the amount to \$1,700.

Mr. OUMET. I do not know whether the hon. gentleman could live on that or not.

Mr. BAIN. I agree a good deal with the expressions which have fallen from the hon. member for Grey, when he says that we have many officers here to see that they get justice in any readjustment made by this Bill. I do not intend to say one word in regard to the officers, but the readjustment is not made in a direction which will be likely to satisfy the rank and file of the Militia service of this country. I remember that before I entered Parliamentary life, while I was doing municipal service, the difficulty that surrounded the Militia service, and that the county council granted an additional allowance of 25 cts. per day while they were in camp. That county council has found it necessary to continue that practice since. Hon. gentlemen talk about the inconvenience of young men in cities obtaining absence for a period of two weeks to go into camp, but young men in the country find it just as inconvenient to leave their employment, and in not a few cases they have had to pay more to have their places supplied than the whole amount received, without considering any expenditure in camp. I think the young men of the country will not value any concession made in the interests of companies organized in cities, and I confess I sympathize in the feeling which will grow up with our young men that the additional expenditure on the Militia force is being a good deal made in the direction of display, tinsel and feathers, and not towards the substantial improvement of what really must be the backbone of the Militia service if it is ever going to amount to anything. Hon. gentlemen opposite are asking much about the character of the force, and it is only just that they should show more liberality to the men who have really done the work.

Mr. WRIGHT. I, too, have dwelt in Arcadia, and have the honor of holding a commission in Her Majesty's service,

Mr. SPROULE.

and it is very pleasing to find military men take the proper part which they should do in a discussion of this kind, and that laymen, gentlemen who are fond of taunting us with being laymen, as regards other matters, occupy their appropriate position. I am quite certain every one was very much gratified at the statement made in the Speech from the Throne, in which His Excellency assured us, after a somewhat protracted tour through the United States, he found that the people of that country entertained the kindest and most friendly feeling towards us, and that the military manœuvres of the hon. Minister had not excited too serious an alarm in the minds of that great people, and in fact that the *entente cordiale* between the two great nations had been practically restored. That is a very gratifying assurance, coming as it does from so high, distinguished and well-informed a source. But I think we must all be glad in the main with this Bill of the hon. Minister of Militia. The very able gentleman who preceded me adopted what may be termed the Fabian policy. He instilled a more vigorous sentiment into the minds of the people. In fact, he attended the great camps and military manœuvres, and by his excellent speeches, by the singular ability which characterized all those speeches, he appealed, in the best possible manner, to every generous, kindly and manly sentiment in the hearts of the people. He made use of the great song of the French:

"Aux armes citoyens,  
Formez vos bataillons."

Every nation represents an idea. We, in this country, with 4,000,000 of people, represent the Monarchical idea, and our neighbors, with 40,000,000, represent the Democratic idea. We had, of course, to form a military establishment, which was done by our predecessors in office in the shape of the Kingston College, and to carry out the military idea as is done in every free nation; and though we are only 4,000,000, we are determined to hold—I say honestly and earnestly—this lone outpost of the British Empire against all arms, and I think that the hon. gentleman has done much by his policy to introduce very fine and frank and manly sentiments in the hearts of our people. I, myself, have watched with great pleasure the strategical ability of the hon. Minister in forming great camps along the frontier. We have been told by gentlemen connected with the navy, that we are the fourth navy power in the world, and if in addition to the Canadian navy, we are backed up by the navy of England and our own force, it will be a hard thing if we cannot struggle against almost any odds. I have a little complaint of my own to make. Some years ago I called upon the hon. gentleman with a view to the organization of a regiment of militia in my own county, that great county in which all the men are brave and all the women are beautiful. We appeal to the fair sex always, and because they are now to exercise a beneficial influence on the destinies of the Militia. We were promised by the hon. Minister that he would give our representations every consideration; but I regret to say, that owing to circumstances over which he doubtless had no control, they have not received the consideration which we expected; and so I now formally make my complaint before the House, and I hope that this great wrong will be remedied. We have three or four companies in our county, kept up under singular and disadvantageous circumstances; they are isolated companies, who hold their meetings, I may say, in the very heart of the primeval forest. They hold themselves together by mutual ties, send men to Wimbledon, and in every way conduct themselves in such a way as to be a credit to the Militia force of the country; and I have felt it only fair, representing as I do such a great part of the Province of Quebec, to state that I think that their wants should be considered. I remember, many years ago, when Sir George E. Cartier was Minister of Militia, his asking me if I could bring down a