

tion. He will be here in a day or two, and then everything will be right.

MONTREAL HIGHLAND CADET CORPS.

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier). I would like to ask my hon. friend the Minister of Militia if he intends doing anything for the Highland Cadet corps of Montreal. The matter calls for no discussion, but I shall read to the House a portion of a letter sent to me in connection with this matter :

Now the militia estimates are before the House, I think it advisable to draw your attention to the fact that that fine little corps the Highland Cadets of this city are likely to disband, through want of support and encouragement. Allow me to give you a brief outline of their career, in as few words as possible, for your information :

(a) The corps was organized in 1889 by Major Fred. Lydon—then and for some years afterwards adjutant of the 5th Royal Scots—under whom they have ever since been and are to-day.

(b) They hold the Duke of Connaught's flag, having won it on June 5th, 1897, in competition with the Mount St. Louis Cadet corps.

(c) They have never had government assistance, and their work, as you can well understand has been uphill work in every sense of the word, and I think Major Lydon deserves the highest credit for keeping the corps up to the great efficiency it is in to-day in face of strong obstacles.

(d) The corps has at various times been on a visit, at its own expense, to Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Niagara Falls, Ogdensburg, New York, Portland, Maine, and other places.

(e) I myself, representing the Montreal 'Herald' as special correspondent, accompanied them to Portland, Maine, in 1903, and can bear testimony to their great efficiency and good behaviour there and to the grand reception given them during their three days stay in that city.

(f) They have been inspected by various Governor Generals, also by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, from whom they got great praise, as well as by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, when here as Duke of Cornwall, &c., to whom they acted as a guard of honour.

In face of all this and the fact that this little corps has supplied upwards of 600 recruits in all to city corps, besides a large number—altogether out of proportion to the size of the corps—to the South African campaign a few years back, Major Lydon has expended some \$2,000 out of his own pocket to keep up his corps. Is this right let me ask you? Besides they have had private subscriptions, which alone have helped to partially sustain the corps, from Lord Strathcona, the late Colin McArthur and others. Now they contemplate a trip to New York city on 30th June to spend Dominion Day and 4th of July, and go in their shabby uniforms, and upon their return will disband at once unless they get some assistance from government or elsewhere, and as you are a Montrealer and must know the corps, that must plead for me in asking you to get a promise from the Minister of Militia in the House that something will be done—and done quickly—to keep up and help this fine little corps to keep alive. It would be a shame and disgrace should they be allowed to die through want of the necessary assistance. In a speech at the opening of the headquarters

of the First Cadet Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers last week, the Prince of Wales stated :

That during his visit to the colonies he found the cadet movement further advanced than in this country (England). He favoured it, not with a view of militarizing the population, but to give training, discipline and to make those who took part in it of use should their services ever be needed.

Lord Roberts on Empire Day made a speech in which he said :

I am perfectly satisfied that it is essential for this country (England) that every able-bodied man should be able to use a rifle. If you would teach men how to shoot, you must begin with the boys. For that reason we want rifle clubs in all the schools, and assistance can be given to the schools by neighbouring rifle clubs allowing them the use of their ranges.

I am sure two such high authorities are sufficient to make the government decide to sustain this grand little corps, the Highland Cadets, and I am sure your attention having been drawn to the state of coma they are in, I can, as an old militia officer of many years standing, claim your all-powerful help in striving to get the necessary help for this corps.

It is unnecessary for me to add anything to this communication except to say that I cordially trust my hon. friend the Minister of Militia will see that the request is given his most favourable attention.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. In reply I may say that this matter has already been brought to my attention, and that I have had some correspondence with citizens of Montreal and particularly Major Lydon himself with regard to it. Not long ago the secretary of the department wrote a letter in which he said :

The minister regrets he is unable to consider the claims of the Highland Cadet corps for assistance, apart from the claims of other cadet corps. The whole question of assistance will be considered by the minister and the Militia Council at an early date.

In the Militia Act of last year there are these clauses referring to cadet corps :

Section 65. The minister may—

(a) Authorize boys over 12 years of age, who are attending school, to be formed into school cadet corps ;

(b) Authorize boys over 14 years of age and under 18 years of age, to be formed into senior cadet corps ;

(c) Authorize senior cadet corps, or any portion thereof, to be attached to any portion of the active militia for the purposes of drill and training.

Section 66. All cadet corps shall be subject to the authority and under the orders of the district officer commanding.

Section 67. Cadet corps shall be drilled and trained as prescribed, and may be furnished with arms, ammunition and equipment, under conditions prescribed.

So that the powers of the department are limited under the Act, and if any special treatment is to be accorded to the cadets mentioned it would be necessary to take a special vote. It would be more convenient to thresh out this question when the militia estimates are up, and I shall then have a