

competent political pet, puts the cap on, and gives up your paper. Of course we realize that you are making your fight along this line wholly for the sake of the militia as a whole, and not specially for the sake of the R. M. C. itself; but your persistent demand for common sense in this particular feature of militia administration comprises naturally a just recognition of the claims of the graduates of the R. M. C.

Yours etc.,
BLUCHER.

Money Talks.

To the Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—Money talks. Knowing the truth of this, particularly in journalism, it gives me great pleasure to forward you two dollars for another annual subscriber to the MILITARY GAZETTE. Please forward the receipt to address on enclosed slip. All members of the force, and all of its well wishers, owe you a debt of gratitude. We cannot expect you to work for us as you are doing almost single handed, without supporting you, and I for one consider it a duty as well as a pleasure, not only to subscribe regularly myself, but to get as many of my friends as possible to subscribe. Your paper has never been so well maintained or so consistently independent as it is at present. I hope that the whole force is helping you to keep up your fight. If it does I am confident we shall soon see a great change in our defensive force.

Yours, AN ADJUTANT.

The Royal Military College, Kingston.

To the Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—The discussion which took place recently in Parliament regarding the command of the Royal Military College, Kingston, being limited to a term of five years, has naturally directed much attention to this important subject. On reading an account of the debate one is apt to say that, if the working of the five years' scheme is calculated to produce the good results claimed for it, the supporters of the measure failed to urge upon the Government the importance of applying this salutary rule to others. There is no appointment connected with our militia that demands the exercise of greater energy and ability than that of Adjutant General. The Chief of the Staff should be a man gifted with knowledge and experience, prepared to give his undivided energies to the duties of his office: duties which are of so important a nature that only those with the professional training of a lifetime are competent to perform satisfactorily. Therefore, for the post of Adjutant General as well as Commandant of the R. M. C., etc., it is necessary we should secure the best ability available. Every well-wisher of the R. M. College must have been sorry to learn "that the institution was not maintained at anything like the high standard that formerly characterized it," but it was some consolation to hear Mr. Dickey declare that "the class that

graduated from the college this year was the best on record." Increasing the fees and difference in the matriculation course from other institutions may possibly have something to do with the falling off in the number of cadets, but the chief cause must be attributed to the pernicious action of the Government in withholding from the graduates of the R. M. College their just claim to the military appointments in their gift. Were it an indispensable condition that graduates of the Royal Military College had the preference to Government employment, we should soon have no reason to complain of the paucity of cadets.

The Royal Military College is maintained for the purpose of training and fitting our young men for the public service. This institution costs the country annually \$70,000! No one out of Bedlam could conceive it possible that those entrusted with the administration of public affairs, ignoring the large expenditure, the just claims of the graduates, and the best interests of the country, would be guilty of filling vacant offices with unqualified outsiders merely to satisfy the selfish claims of family interests, or to gain the support of a few votes which might help to prolong the enjoyment of the "sweets of office."

The time is fast approaching when there will be an opportunity of showing whether the only way to serve the country is by sacrificing its best interests on the altar of political expediency?

Yours obediently;

J. R.

The Camp at London.

To the Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

The district camp of the 1st military district ended at London on Saturday last. It was composed of 1 regiment of cavalry, the 1st Hussars (4 troops), 1 Batt of rifle the 22nd "Oxford" (8 companies) and 4 Battalions of Infantry, the 21st Essex Fusiliers (5 co's), the 27th Lambton (7 co's), the 27th Waterloo (6 co's), and the 32nd Bruce (8 co's). The commandant was Lt.-Col. Smith, D.A.G. with Lt.-Col. Vidal, as Staff Officer. The camp of instruction was all through a success and much was learned by officers and men with regard to duties in the field. On Friday a route march took place through the city and a march past on the review ground near the Infantry Barracks. The marching of the men was very steady, was much admired and showed that a great deal had been accomplished during the period of training. The 22nd Oxford Rifles appeared to better advantage than the other battalions. There was a swing about them and a uniformity in the carrying of their arms combined with their neat fitting dark uniforms and new white helmets, that attracted attention. The helmets of the 21st Essex Fusiliers are peculiar in shape and reminded one of the head dress of an American regiment. The helmets of the 29th Waterloo, also could be improved. But these peculiarities must be expected, as each corps has to provide its own head dress, or else suffer during these hot days by wearing the forage caps issued by the

Militia Department, as this is the only head dress furnished by the government. This is a great drawback to the militia generally and should as soon as possible be remedied. During the twelve days training, Lt.-Col. Smith and some of his staff officers lectured to the officers on "Interior economy, military law and duties." Good work has been done at this camp and the counties in the 1st Military District may well feel proud of their several local battalions. What about the

GZOWSKI COMPETITION

this year? In the Second Military District there are two handsome silver cups for competition each year; they were presented by Colonel Sir Gasimir Gzowski, A.D.C. to the Queen and staff officer to Engineer, from Canadian Militia. Infantry and Rifles alone enter into this competition. It was intended by the donor that the commanding officers of the several corps should meet together and with the D.A.G. of the district decide upon the terms of the competition. One cup is for the city corps and for the rural corps. Last year there was no competition among the rural corps as there was no annual drill. The competition for the cup by city corps last year was unsatisfactory, the matter was taken out of the hands of the commanding officers and terms and conditions published by Major General Herbert. The most unsatisfactory part was that no marks whatever were given for battalion drill; company, squad and arm drill alone counting. The cup was won by the 13th Battalion of Hamilton, after a very close competition with the Queen's Own Rifles, the latter being only one quarter of one point behind the former battalion. What about the competition this year? Is it not time something was decided upon?

A difficulty will arise in deciding the competition for rural corps this year. Three battalions, the 12th, 37th and 77th put in their annual drill at the district camp at Niagara, and were duly inspected by Lt.-Col. Buchan, D.A.G. and his staff, in squad, arm, company and battalion drill, cleanliness of arms, etc. Three other battalions put in their training at regimental camps viz: the 34th at Whitby, the 35th at Orillia, and the 36th at Beeton, and if inspected at all were inspected by their own commanding officers. As the details of the inspection were not the same and as the inspecting officers cannot be said to be disinterested parties, the situation to say the least of it is peculiar. It is unsatisfactory to the officers and men of these battalions that the militia department made no arrangement whereby they could be properly inspected by a competent staff officer. The battalions were all up to authorized strength and no doubt did good work, but who can now judge of the result, so as to award the cup to the best battalion,

CAMP CHAT.

It is almost impossible for n. c. o. and men to learn guard mounting at their several company headquarters, and perhaps the weakest feature of our brigade camps is that no guard mounting of any account is taught. It is true that at