

ATTEMPT TO FORM SISTER ASSOCIATIONS.

During the year an effort was made to organize Sister Associations in the principal cities of the Dominion. The advantages to be derived from having such Associations scattered throughout the country must be quite obvious to all. They would act as an inducement to men to join, as they would know, that even if they should be compelled to leave the city in which they joined an Association, they could still retain membership by affiliation with the Association in their new place of residence, and in all probability join some corps, and thus their services would be retained to the country. With that object in view the Secretary forwarded a copy of our Constitution and By-laws to the Commanding Officers of Corps in the principal cities, with the request that they would endeavor to interest some of their Non-Commissioned Officers in the scheme. We had also in view the hope, that if we could succeed in forming a few Associations in other places, we would then be in a position to petition the Government for assistance in the same way as they assist Rifle Associations and Bands of efficient corps. We are convinced that we could lay claim to adding in a much greater degree to the efficiency of the force, by such Associations as this, than can be accomplished by Rifle Associations. For it must be conceded that Rifle Associations come far short of raising the standard of efficiency in any corps in which they have been organized. I do not wish to depreciate the value of this useful agency in the efficient working of well organized corps, but on the contrary, believe that they are absolutely necessary for the well-being of every battalion and are deserving of all the assistance which they may receive, but while they are useful in their own spheres in contributing towards the efficiency of the whole, it must not be forgotten that the benefits arising therefrom are necessarily limited to a few, while the great mass of the rank and file who have not the time that is necessary to devoted to rifle practice to become marksmen, are left without any prize to struggle for but the annual drill pay, which is barely sufficient to pay for the boots that are worn out performing the drill. We therefore believe that if the Government were to encourage the organization of Associations of this kind by a grant of a small sum annually, it would result in increased efficiency and a force that would not change with the seasons, and be as fluctuating as the stock market.