

this is a subject in which there is finality. When a man has mastered the detail of the infantry drill book furnished by Her Majesty, he knows all about that. The capacity to impart this instruction is like genius and varies according to the man. Of course practice goes a long way, but the drill is so simple that any man of ordinary intelligence is supposed to be able to acquire it in three months. The war office does not scruple to change it completely every five or six years, and instructors have not only to learn it all over again, but to forget what they have already learned. Barrack duties are taught at the schools just as well as at the R. M. C. Duties in the field are better taught in camps of instruction. In that respect a sergeant in a rural corps has the advantage over the cadet whose headquarters are in the dormitory. One day's field training is worth a week's instruction in barracks. But those who endorse the R. M. C. say: "What about tactics and the art of war? These subjects are not taught in the schools of infantry?" To a limited extent they are, but certainly not so much as they should be. Minor tactics are but an extended application of the rudiments of drill. Perfection is only obtained by practice in the handling of large bodies of troops. The cadet cannot have the advantage much in this respect. It is only after a man has had some experience in handling small bodies of soldiers that he is qualified to take the higher ranks. In the British service Lieut.-Colonels have to pass a practical examination on this point by handling a brigade comprising the three arms. I hardly think the Royal Military College aspires to give the same training as the staff college in England. It is there the art of war in its higher branches are taught. I think it was Napoleon who said the art of war could not be learned from books. I agree with him. A man can only acquire this knowledge from practical experience. But by being a close student of Military History he can study the methods applied by the great leaders, and often draw deductions that are applicable to any situation in which the fortunes or misfortunes of war may place him. There is no royal road to victory any more than there is to learning. The reason the West Pointers came to the front in the American Civil War, was that the system of appointing officers to the American army was wrong. The officers were elected by the men. Many were made colonels who had never drawn a sword or handled a rifle in their lives. Was it to be wondered at, that those who had a knowledge of drill had a big start for promotion on those who had not? Then, West Point was about the only institution in the United States where such knowledge could be acquired. But in Canada it is different. An officer who passes his examination after taking a short course at the schools of infantry, must be able not only to drill a man from the time he learns the position of a soldier, till he stands in review order and fires a *fou-de-joi*. He must be able not only to drill his company and manœuvre it properly on parade or lead it in battle, but he must know how to make out his returns, issue clothing, or preside at a court martial. People do not realize the work done by these schools, very often under great difficulties. After a careful study of the subject no one can help arriving at the conclusion that an officer who secures a second-class short course certificate knows a good deal more of his profession than an officer of the regular British service fifty years ago. If post graduate classes in military history, field sketching, and tactics were held at the schools once or twice a year, they would be hard to equal anywhere else in the world, and our officers would acquire a knowledge of staff duties which is sadly deficient in the Canadian militia. However, I do not deny but that the Royal Military College is an institution capable of doing good work, for it supplies men who are suited for the engineering branch of the service—a most important one.

I also differ from Principal Grant as to the ability of the city corps in case of war. They are the only trained soldiers in the country excepting the permanent force. They are ready to take the field on twelve hours notice as has on several occasions been demonstrated. They are officered, equipped, and possess a full establishment of well drilled men ready for the field at any time. They would have to hold the first lines of defence while the rural corps were learning squad drill and organizing. As far as physique and strength go they will compare with any regiments in the world, I care not where. They are recruited from artisans and ath-

letic young men who are fond of sports and active life. They are not spoon fed. I feel satisfied from what I have seen and know that any one of the three regiments in Toronto could take the field and march twenty miles a day anyway, and keep it up for a week. Marching is the true test of endurance.

Although I disagree with Principal Grant on some minor points, still I agree with him on the whole. By all means let us improve the militia. The initiative must spring from the people of Canada and the force itself, instead of asking a Minister of Militia and a general officer commanding to do everything, in fact, make bricks without straw.

J. A. CURRIE.

### The Silent Snow.

This day the earth has not a word to speak.  
The snow comes down as softly through the air  
As pitying heaven to a martyr's prayer,  
Or white grave roses to a bloodless cheek;  
The footsteps of the snow, as white and meek  
As angel travellers, are everywhere—  
On fence and brier and up the forest stair,  
And on the wind's trail o'er the moorland bleak.

They tread the rugged road as tenderly  
As April venturing her first caress;  
They drown the old earth's furrowed griefs and scars  
Within the white foam of a soundless sea;  
And bring a deeper depth of quietness  
To graves asleep beneath the silent stars.

ETHELWYN WETHERALD.

### A Royal Canadian Regiment.

FOR some time past a great deal has been said and much more has been written about Imperial Federation, though scarcely any two persons are agreed as to what that term really means; the generality of people thinking that what is meant is the welding together of the whole British empire, with its various interests, creeds and tongues, into one harmonious whole, where, to slightly alter Macaulay's lines,

"None are for a party  
But all are for the state."

It is to be feared that many years are destined to elapse before such a happy consummation can be effected, but in the meantime there are many things that can be done which will tend to make such a scheme of Imperial Federation or Unity between the Mother Country and the Colonies not a dream as it is at present—though a dream of future greatness—but a reality.

One step in this direction can be achieved by the adoption of the proposal, that has for some little time past been discussed in England and warmly supported there in influential quarters, to establish the recruiting depot of the Leinster (Royal Canadian) regiment in Canada.

There are many reasons why such a plan should be adopted, and few, unless the one of expense is insuperable, that can be urged against it.

As at present constituted the Leinster Regiment consists of two battalions, the first being formerly known as the 100th Prince of Wales Royal Canadian Regiment, the latter as the 109th Bombay Infantry. Why the Leinster Regiment should have had that title bestowed upon it when the territorial system in recruiting was adopted, it is very hard to say, unless it was that the authorities at the War Office and Horse Guards thought one name as good as another. Certainly it would not have been possible to recruit the regiment in Bombay, so it could not very well or very appropriately have been christened the Bombay Regiment, but on the other hand it would be possible to recruit the two battalions in Canada, where the first was raised in 1858, and it could be most appropriately named the Royal Canadian Regiment.

Of course there are technical objections and there may be the greater one of undue expense, though the latter ought to be avoided by utilizing the services of the officers and men of the permanent corps. But there are many things in its favour and principally this that such a course would show the Mother Country that the loyalty of the Canadians is not altogether skin deep and that her sons are not only able but