

RECENTLY TO DISCUSS THE NEEDS OF THE ARMY

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service founded upon a money consideration would never, in his opinion, be other than a farce.

An increase in the flat rate of pay, and the abolition of "efficiency" pay would be a decided reform. Every one, from top to bottom of the service, admits that "efficiency" pay is a farce and in some cases a great deal worse than that.

Universal Training.

OF course, if universal training were to be adopted there would be no need for an increase of pay. Senator Power explained how in 1866, Nova Scotia trained as many men as the whole of Canada trains to-day at a total cost of \$100,000. The companies drilled at their home headquarters and only the officers were uniformed. There was no pay for the individual. Colonel Logie pointed out that in Australia every youth of sixteen must serve two years in the senior cadets and then follow by three years in the militia. Thus by the time he is twenty-one, he has already served five years. For this period of service, he receives no pay.

Universal training has the supreme economic advantage that it drills young men only and occupies their time when they can spare it and when their economic value is not developed. Universal training which ends when a man reaches twenty-one years of age should not scare any anti-militarist. Any young man who drills sixteen days a year for five years is not giving up much for his country, and what he is giving is time which is not overly valuable. Nevertheless this is the period of his life when physical training of this nature will be of the greatest benefit to him. The greatest benefit, and the lightest burden.

And yet the conference hesitated to vote for universal training. The officers knew that they would be misrepresented and misunderstood. The cavalry section made no recommendation on this point. The artillery section were strongly in favour of it. The infantry section discussed it, but took no action. The whole conference discussed it, but decided nothing. Nevertheless universal training to be completed at twenty-one years of age was in the air and if another conference is held next year it would be more seriously and aggressively considered.

The chief points in its favour may be summed up,

(1) It would save a large sum annually; (2) It would save two-thirds of the time of officers, now spent in seeking recruits; (3) It would train men at a period when their training would be physically most beneficial, and (4) It would train the selfish as well as the unselfish.

Armouries and Drill Halls.

AN armoury is a place in which to store arms and equipment; a drill hall is a place to drill a company or a battalion, with armouries attached. At present the city corps have drill halls, and the country corps have nothing. The latter desire either unit or company armouries. The best suggestion was to the effect that every company or companies in a town or village should have an armoury. This would be about 20 feet by 35 feet, a frame structure on a stone foundation, built on land donated by the local authorities, and costing from \$1,000 to \$2,000 each.

It does seem strange that the Government should build large, expensive and luxurious drill halls for city corps and leave the country corps without places in which to meet occasionally and in which to keep their equipment. Armouries are a necessity if the military spirit is to be kept alive between drill seasons. They are the meeting places for the men, providing a social military centre which seems essential. They are also useful, even when small, for preliminary squad drill.

In erecting public buildings of this kind, the Dominion Government has been extravagant and niggardly, according to general opinion. The buildings which they have erected have been unnecessarily expensive and usually badly planned. Too much money has been expended on exteriors and too little on interiors. These expensive armouries have been too often political favours rather than business-like expenditures. This is the extravagant side. The niggardly side was their failure to provide inexpensive small armouries for the units of the towns and villages.

Cadet Corps.

MOST enthusiasm was shown when the discussion of cadet corps was taken up. It seemed to be universally recognized that the cadet corps were the basis or the feeders of the militia. At present there is no system, as in Australia, whereby

youths pass directly from cadet corps into the militia. Colonel Mercer and others suggested that some changes should be made, such as lowering the age limit in the militia, whereby cadets would pass at once in the senior corps without the interregnum which now exists. A cadet finishes his training when he is sixteen or eighteen years of age, but cannot enter the militia until he is twenty-one.

The cavalry section recommended that separate camps be authorized for cadets who are affiliated to a regiment, and that 22-calibre rifles be supplied to them, with 50 rounds of ammunition. The artillery section expressed its "sincerest sympathy with the cadet movement and believe that its development is essential to the future strength and efficiency of the force." The educational and cadet corps section recommended summer camps for cadets, small annual grants for each properly uniformed cadet at annual inspection, and that provincial educational authorities should encourage the cadet movement. The infantry section expressed general approval of the cadets as the first step towards universal training.

A More Varied Ration.

THE subject of better feeding in the camps received scant attention, but it is undoubtedly important. Lieut.-Col. Miller, of the 23rd Regiment, furnished the writer with the details of an experiment in this connection. The Government makes certain allowances for this work and supplies plenty of food. Col. Miller thinks it should revise its list of supplies and decrease the cost. He took 137 men to camp and fed them as he would feed his men in a lumber camp, the Government giving him cash in lieu of the ordinary rations. The amount handed over by the Government was \$410. Col. Miller did his own providing and expended only \$301, leaving him a net profit of \$108. He succeeded in feeding his men at 189-10 cents per day, or 63-10 cents per meal. Yet every meal had a special menu of its own. There was a greater variety and the men fared much better than on government rations. He used only half as much bread, a little more than half as much meat, saved on butter, cheese, jam and beans. With this saving he bought sausages, rice, macaroni, apples, prunes,

(Continued on page 21.)