

the question whether we were better off in the old days than we are now. It will serve no useful purpose to do so, for be it remembered by those who dislike all change that the old soldier of the past was not forced away, but disappeared of his own accord.

Whether it was the spread of educa-

There is also one undoubted evil connected with the long service system, and that is that however fine your existing army may be, it leaves you nothing to fall back upon. The army which sailed to the Crimea has often been described as magnificent, but in less than a year how many were *hors de combat* from



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THE CANADIAN ARM OF THE SERVICE—TROOPER, ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS,
IN DRILL ORDER.

tion, or the greater latitude of freedom enjoyed by all, which made men less willing to bind themselves down for a lengthened period of fixed service, or whatever the cause, certain it is that about twenty-five years ago, enlistment under the old system became an impossibility, and died a natural death.

sickness, disease and death, and then how to fill up the ranks was the great problem. As in action, so in general life: if you put your entire strength in your front line, and have no reserve to fall back upon, it is only to court disaster.

So the new system of inducing men to