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NOTE AND COMMENT.

A natural outcome of the departmental discouragement of volunteering by Civil Servants were seen at the annual inspection of the Governor General's Foot Guards at Ottawa on Saturday last. The parade was only half the strength of the regiment, and it was stated that many of those who failed to turn out could not get leave of absence for the afternoon, their employers alleging that they could not put up with interruption to their business any more than the Government could. General Herbert expressed disappointment at the small parade, and asked that a special report on the causes should be made to him. He felt satisfied, he said, that the attitude of the Government towards volunteering had been misunderstood, and he felt sure that Sir Adolphe Caron would cooperate with him in endeavouring to do whatever could be done in the interest of the force.

Notwithstanding the General's intended effort, we fancy that volunteering at Ottawa has received a check which will long be felt. Abstinence from further departmental interference will not help matters much, for in any Department where the Minister has shown hostility to volunteering, no employee will lightly risk his prospects of favour or advancement by remaining in the force. In order, however, that public opinion, as voiced by Parliament, may be heard on the matter, we believe that a resolution is to be submitted next session, either in the form of an additional clause in the promised Militia Act amendment bill, or of an independent motion.

At this particular time when "friends at court" are apt to prove of great utility, the militia will hear with special pleasure that one of our best known officers, Lieut.-Col. Hon. Joseph Alderic Ouimet, has been called to be a member of Premier Abbott's administration. Pending the re-organization of the Cabinet, no portfolio has yet been assigned to him. Col. Ouimet retired from the Active List when he recently gave up the command of the 65th Battalion, Mount Royal Rifles, with whom he served in the Northwest in 1885, but he still takes an active interest in military affairs, and holds the important and honourable office of President of the Council of the Dominion Rifle Association. In politics his career has been singularly successful. In 1873, when only twenty-five years old, he won a place in Parliament as the representative of Laval by the defeat of Mr. L. O. David, then and still one of the most influential of the Quebec Rouges, and has since continuously held the confidence of that constituency. He was

Speaker of the Parliament recently dissolved, and one of Sir John Macdonald's last official acts was to procure the appointment of Col. Ouimet and his predecessor Col. Kirkpatrick, as members of the Privy Council, in accordance with Imperial usage towards ex-Speakers of the British Commons. The advancement to Cabinet rank shows that the successor of Sir John Macdonald shares his confidence in Col. Ouimet; and if, as is not improbable, he can testify in a similar way to the confidence which he unquestionably has in Col. Kirkpatrick also, the military electors the Dominion over will have reason to be greatly pleased with their increased Cabinet representation.

Much interest attaches to the proposed military features of the World's Fair to be held at Chicago in 1893, and many suggestions are offered as to the form the military demonstration should take. General Miles, commanding the Department of the Missouri, says in his annual report:

"It would seem advisable to take advantage of the occasion to mobilize or assemble what is known as the National Guard or State Militia. The Constitution has very judiciously and wisely reserved the control of these forces to the various State Governments, but, as a means to promote the efficiency of the various organizations, it would be well to assemble them, under Congressional enactment, with the approval and authority of the various State Governments, in one national encampment at least once in a generation. As there has been no gathering of that magnitude since the armies were dispersed in 1865 I would respectfully recommend that the militia be brought together at this peace jubilee.

"Most of the members of the National Guard who are engaged in the great industries of the country will desire to be present at the exposition at some time during its session, and many would prefer to come with their organizations, in order to combine with the encampment the benefits of the exposition. It would also be beneficial to the State organizations to be brought together in one national encampment, where they would have the advantage of meeting troops from other States.

"The reasonable reduction of rates in other countries for such movements of troops, and frequently given in this country, would reduce the aggregate cost, say, for 90,000 State troops and 10,000 Federal troops, to \$850,000 approximately. For that purpose I would respectfully recommend that Congress be asked to make the necessary appropriation and to provide the requisite authority for such a movement."

In the United States there has of late years been considerable well directed effort to secure better training of the soldier in the effective use of his rifle, and the most intelligent officers of the regular army and volunteers are giving the matter close study. As an outcome, there has been an interesting new departure in the State of Massachusetts, where a distinguished marksman's match has been inaugurated. The Distinguished Marksman Class is the highest position a volunteer marksman can attain in Massachusetts, and he who is ranked in this class must be a sharpshooter of record, have represented the State at Creedmoor, have been mentioned in orders as in the first twelve, or