

regiment can be moved from one place to another, can be put into a train and taken out of it, marched to camp, mount its guards and pickets, pitch its tents, issue and cook its rations, maintain the strictest discipline, and all the time go on with its instruction in drill in a purpose-like and business fashion, and making progress in every military duty in a manner that astonishes the officer of the regular army. Now, can anyone suggest a system better suited to the habits and ideas of the people or one that will bring about as good results from the same expenditure either of money or industry? What possible system of a small regular force, such as is suggested by some, could equal it for effective results in case of any serious difficulty? Having read the endless suggestions and criticisms which are from time to time poured forth through the press, and having, what few of the critics have, a pretty thorough knowledge of the present system, its weak as well as its strong points, of its very apparent deficiencies, and of its real capacity—the former much more plain to the eye than the latter—I have no hesitation in saying that the present force, mainly created and developed by the military spirit of the country, and mainly dependent upon it for support, has, by the very fact of its existence at the present, proved itself well suited to the country, and to the resources at its command. And I am conservative enough to believe that we shall do better to improve and develop a system which has served us well in the past, and is serving us better in the present, than in troubling ourselves with the speculations of those who are too proud to enter the present force, and who spend their military spirit in pointing out the deficiencies which we in the ranks are steadily striving to overcome.

I have spoken of the difficulties under which this force is maintained, which bear so hardly upon those engaged in it. Certainly the country, which has such a force upon such easy terms, has no right to complain. We, however, who have so long borne the burden, have the right to ask that it be made less severe, as easily it might be. The best methods of accomplishing this could not properly be discussed in connection with the subject now under consideration, but thus much may be said, that the military spirit of which we have been speaking would sustain the Government in any reasonable expenditure required to meet existing deficiencies, especially when that expenditure would go directly to the improvement of the rank and file, and not to those accessories which, however useful, are not of absolute necessity.

But it will be asked, and the question is a pertinent one, and must be answered—admitting your contention to be correct, and the existence and growth of this warlike spirit to be proved, of what value is it—what are you going to make of it? A political necessity, the conditions of

which may change at any time, compels us now to spend a certain sum upon military preparations, and in the spending of that money a few enthusiastic persons like to employ themselves in playing at soldiering. It amuses them, and it does not hurt the country; but, after all, what is it but mere pastime? The only possibility of war is one in which we should be powerless. Any attempt at resistance would be useless. We should be as a child in the hands of a giant, and immediate submission would be our inevitable lot. Now, I will not attempt to answer this question from a military point of view, though seventy-five thousand of such men as in for eight hours the Minister of Militia could put in the field simply by doubling the strength of existing companies, would, backed by the sea and land forces which ten days would bring to our assistance, be no despicable force. But as upon the answer largely depends the future of this country, I will answer it in the spirit in which it was answered by Sir Isaac Brock just eighty years ago, when, with as heavy odds against him as we could have to meet to-day, he undertook the defence of the Canadian frontier—a defence which but for his untimely death would have been more successful and glorious than it was. He did not sit down to consider whether with ten thousand men he could meet him that came against him with twenty thousand. He simply told the people of Canada that the country was theirs, and that it was their plain duty, when wrongfully attacked, to take up arms in its defence. And in a similar spirit should we answer the question to-day. If we are not prepared to defend our country and keep it ours, we should not have undertaken to make it. We should not assume national responsibilities unless we are prepared to accept the conditions with which they are connected; and by which alone they can be maintained. And till human nature is reformed, and Christianity really governs the world, preparation for self defence, and the readiness to endure all that it may impose, is the first of national necessities. We have gone too far upon the path of national progress now to draw back from the fulfilment of this obvious duty. We cannot shrink from it unless we are prepared to abandon the work in which we have been engaged—to show ourselves false to every sentiment of manhood and patriotism—unworthy of our name and race, and of all the glorious traditions of the past. There is then a legitimate field for the exercise of the warlike spirit of our people, and an absolute necessity for its careful development; and while the work is one in which all should bear a part, yet mainly upon those who, in no idle spirit of display, but with an earnest desire to fit themselves for the stern duties of the field, have undertaken the task of forming our Militia into an efficient military force, will rest the burden of showing that the

growth of a military spirit in Canada is no idle dream—that it is a real, living element in our national life and our national progress, and as essential to its complete development as any of those which it is the duty of government to foster and encourage. Acting upon such a conviction we should go manfully and steadfastly on with our work, satisfied that while engaged in a task suited to our tastes and capacities, we are also fulfilling a duty second to none in its importance and value to the country—as much of benefit to it as of credit to ourselves.

THE NEW INFANTRY DRILL BOOK.

(Continued.—From Volunteer Service Gazette.)

Part II., "Company drill and organisation," contains the essence of the new system. We may as well give the principal "general rules" with which this part of the book begins:—

Organisation of a company.—In Part I. rules are given for the instruction of the recruit in his elementary duties. When he has been thoroughly grounded in squad drill, he will be drilled with his company.

The day, however, that he joins, he will be told off to the smallest fire unit (either a section or sub-section), be quartered with it, and when dismissed drill, will perform with it all guards, fatigues, and other duties as far as can be arranged.

The most effective number for a fire unit is from eight to ten men. In battalions on the peace establishment, the numbers available for exercise do not often exceed forty in a company, and thus the section, or one-fourth of the company, becomes the smallest fire unit.

In battalions that are much stronger, it is necessary to divide this command into two, hereinafter called a sub-section.

Equalising a company.—No equalising or mixing of companies, except for purposes of ceremony, is to be permitted, with the exceptions noted below. When there are less than eight men of a fire unit present, they should be joined to a larger body. When the fire units of a company do not in all consist of twenty men, the units should be joined to those of another company, but will retain their own organisation, irrespective of that of the company with which they act.

Object of organisation.—The object of this organisation is to assist the onward and cohesive movement of the company during the critical period of the attack, that is, from 500 yards up to the assault of the position. Experience shows that when their nerves are severely tried, much greater results are obtainable from soldiers of ordinary courage, who have gained confidence in each other through being accustomed to work together, than from even the bravest who have not been so trained.

Formation and telling-off of a company. The company will fall in in two ranks in section or sub-section column.