

CORRESPONDENCE.

MILITARY SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—The probable departure of the Regiments stationed in Canada, and the consequent cessation of the military Schools now under their charge, leads me again to seek your pages, in order to avert if possible, such a calamity by the suggestion of what I deem to be a feasible scheme for their continuance. The incalculable advantage that these schools have been to the Dominion, in promoting the study of the military science, and developing the tastes which in a few years will make us a military people, will, I am convinced, find its proof before many years have rolled over our heads. "The mere fact of the reduction of the British Army," A Veteran assures me, "is proof positive that we are on the eve of war." This is rather a paradox, but I believe the facts will bear me out in saying that hitherto a reduction of the army has been followed immediately by war. I trust the rule will find its exception in time to come, but the Eastern question looms up ominously, and rather darkens the peaceful horizon at present. And to us, the settlement of the Alabama Claims, and its riders; must be a source of uneasiness until finally done away with. And even supposing that the vapourings of Mr. Joseph Medill and his damage confers have no influence on our Republican neighbors, is it not a duty to be prepared for a possible contingency, even if it looks improbable at present. And in no way can we better prepare, than in disseminating the seeds of military knowledge through the country by the agency of our Military Schools. Large as is the number of certificates already granted by these Schools, to over 3000, I believe,—this is a small proportion to the number that would actually be needed, were only the 'first class' militia men required for service. Estimating its strength in Ontario to be about 90,000 we have over 6000 officers required for that Province alone!—and the estimate provides for no drill instructors or non-commissioned officers, whose proper qualifications are as essential as that of the officers. Decidedly we cannot afford to let our Military Schools go down. But the question is how to continue them after the troops are withdrawn. I should suggest the following scheme.

1st. Military Schools to be established permanently at the following Stations viz: Toronto, Kingston, Montreal, Quebec, Fredericton and Halifax.
 2nd. The Staff to be permanently appointed with fixed salaries, viz: For each School, 1 Adjutant, at \$1,000, 1 Sergeant Major, at \$400, and 2 Instructor Sergeants, at \$300 each, with a Cavalry and an Artillery Instructor additional in the Schools at Toronto, Montreal, Fredericton and Halifax, at \$400 each.

3rd. The School to be under the superintendence of, and all certificates granted by the Deputy Adjutant General of the District.

4th. The barracks at the station to be utilized by making them the residence of the Cadets, who pay for their subsistence and defray all charges, out of the \$50 granted by Government.

The advantages I claim for this scheme are as follows:

1st. The education of a certain number of Cadets annually.

2nd. The uniform system of drill taught by a permanent staff under the inspection of the Superintendent of Military Schools, and the immediate supervision of the District Staff Officer.

3rd. The habits of order, regularity and obedience enforced by a residence in barracks, beside the practical knowledge acquired by personally going through the routine of barrack duty. (Assuming the course to take eight weeks, the cost to each cadet would be about \$20, including the cost of washing and performing the menial duties of the barracks.)

Now as to the cost of this, there would be.

6 Adjutants at \$1000	\$6000
6 Sergeant-Majors at 400	2400
12 " Instructors at 300	3600
4 Cavalry Instructors 400	1600
4 Artillery " at 400	1600
	<hr/>
	\$15,200

Taking the average annual number of Cadets at each school at 100,	
600 graduates at \$50 each	30,000
	<hr/>
	\$45,200

Add to this—	
1 Superintendent of Schools at	1,200
Stationery and practice ammunition	300
Cost of cleaning & repairing barracks } irrespective of stoppages. }	300
Wear and tear of Barrack furnishing } and utensils }	600
	<hr/>
	\$47,600

or say \$50,000 being just one half of the annual grant for the purpose under the present circumstances.

I may be wrong of course, but I think the more carefully my scheme is considered the more it will approve itself to the judgement of all interested. Imagine a system of education uniformly alike,—certificates granted upon the same standard of qualification—and the best and most intelligent instructors—O, ye passed Cadets!—instead of the dissimilar teachings of various regiments, the alternating laxity and strictness, and the pig headed Non Com. who held an instructorship by favor of the C. O.,—and not by his ability to teach. Imagine \$50,000 less drawn from the public chest each year—O ye legislators!—and imagine, ye to whom the matter is dear, that six hundred men with a fair knowledge of duty, and all taught alike, would graduate

from these schools, with more honor and less cost to themselves and their country than at present.

But another claim have I for the consideration of my scheme—in the offices thus made would be a fitting reward for some who have distinguished themselves by their zeal and energy in the cause—and 'only claim as a reward for the organization of 'is scheme that the patronage should be awarded to deserving Volunteers. There are many who are fit for the position; many who have fitted themselves for such duties, at much cost and labor, and who have neglected and lost sight of their own interests in doing so; and I say it is only fair that these men should have the reward. Heretofore, alas! it has not been so, but I trust Sir George Cartier, should this meet his eye, will lend a willing ear to my supplications, and show to the world that the new Dominion has educated for itself men who are capable of holding such positions, they may not have had the honor of holding Her Majesty's Commission. otherwise than as her "Volunteer Defenders."

CADET.

THE SIMCOE VOLUNTEERS.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—In the last number of your paper you speak of the people of the Simcoe district as having stultified themselves by not encouraging the volunteers. Now, if, as I presume is the case, the allusion is to the county of Simcoe, you will be glad to learn that the imputation is altogether unfounded. Not that there are none in the county so devoid of patriotism as to be amendable to the charge. Such I fear cannot be said of any county in the Dominion, but certainly from the facts I am about to lay before you, you will see that we may fairly abide by our regimental motto *spicemur agendo*. In the first place, at the annual drill in October last, we had in camp at our head quarters at Barrie a full battalion, (the 35th or "Simcoe Foresters") of ten companies with staff, colors, and band complete, numbering nearly four hundred men of all ranks and No. 1 of this battalion, the old Barrie rifle company is the oldest company in Upper Canada, and has been on active service on every occasion that the Volunteers have been called out. There are also in the county a garrison battery of Artillery, and a mounted troop, besides a common school teachers drill association. Under the New Act eight of the ten companies of Foresters have been re enrolled and the place of the other two can be supplied at any time, and the Artillery and Cavalry have also sent in their rolls. So much for the spirit of the men: now for that of the people. In the first place the county council met with promptitude and liberality the proposals of the Government in respect to the Drill sheds, and we have long had our company sheds complete and the battalion shed,