

manent Regimental Staff consists of two Officers, Adjutant and Quartermaster, six Regimental Staff Sergeants and four Sergeants for each company, from thirty to thirty-six in all according to the strength. These are usually old drilled soldiers, and throughout the year when not otherwise employed, they are kept up to their work by lectures and skeleton drill, so that when the men assemble for thirty days' drill and the recruits for fourteen days previously in addition, they are "knocked into shape" in a surprisingly rapid manner. Moreover, this staff is specially charged with the care of arms, accoutrements and clothing, which are thus maintained in as high perfection as in the regular service, and the Government never suffers the terrible expense from abuse, neglect, loss, which unfortunately prevail. I have frequently called attention to this. It is a delusion to imagine that an efficient military force can be kept up without a properly paid permanent staff, and the attempt to do so can only lead to an unprofitable expenditure of public money.

I must not be mistaken in this recommendation to propose that these regimental staff officers should be brought from the regular army. There is no need to import material that exists in abundance among the intelligent youth of this country, who are inspired by a zealous, patriotic spirit and are soldiers at heart, but we must instruct them before they can teach others; and admirable as the Military College will prove to future generations in providing a flow of mathematically and scientifically educated men, we yet require for regimental officers an elementary and practical detail of instruction in all the minor essentials; to render the whole military machine capable of being reliable and well disciplined when required for use; and this can only be obtained with satisfaction through the practical experience to be gained in dealing with permanently embodied corps. I refer to the three Model Schools advocated in my three previous annual reports, and specified in detail in that of last year, amounting together to \$113,250. So impressed am I with the importance of these, that I earnestly submit the subject again for mature and reflective consideration.

The time is not distant when not only these elementary schools must be instituted, but as I believe it will be found desirable to have three permanent Infantry regiments in the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, each of them at least 500 strong.

4. I have before recommended that the arms, accoutrements and clothing of each corps should be kept at regimental headquarters, under permanent caretakers. In the city corps the effect of this is palpable; they are, with hardly an exception, in good order. In many of the rural corps, I fear I must say the same amount of care is not taken; probably it is not possible.

Accidentally I came across a French company this autumn, at drill in a field as I passed along the road; I went over and watched it unknown at first. The officer was doing his utmost with his company, but he was, to use an expression known in the army "knocking them about." The men had no