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Note and Comment.

When are we going to hear something about those long service decorations? They have already been issued in England, but none have been received in Canada so far as we can learn. It can hardly be possible that the political powers that be, could have been indifferent to the interest of those who have sacrificed themselves in behalf of the most important of the public services as to have neglected to use every effort to secure the decoration for the Canadian volunteers entitled to it. The delay in distributing these decorations appeared positively cruel in the case of the veterans who died since the

announcement was made that the decoration was to be granted. What is being done about it, any way?

Meantime considerable information as to the items on which the decoration is to be granted can be gathered from the following remarks in the English Volunteer Record:

Common sense may claim to have achieved victory all along the line, as against bureaucracy, in the matter of the long-service medal for Volunteers. As the result of persistent pegging away in the House of Commons, in the press, and by other available means, Mr. Cambell-Bennerman has been brought to see the expediency of scuttling out of the defences, behind which he at the last of one time seemed determined stand to the bitter end. The outcome of this final surrender is that a memorandum amending the order as it stood heretofore has been issued. We now read that "The medal will be granted to all Volunteers (including Volunteers who have retired, and officers who have served in the ranks but have not qualified for the Volunteer Officer's Decoration), on completion of twenty years' service in the Volunteer forces, provided that they are recommended by their present or former commanding officers in the manner prescribed." It will be remembered that, by the terms of the original order, the intended form of recognition of long service for non-commissioned officers and the rank and file was only to be granted to twenty years' men who were still actively serving on the first of January, 1893.

By comparing the new conditions with the old, the magnitude of the concession which has been wrung from the chief of military officialdom, and its importance to a numerous body of deserving ex-

Volunteers, will be readily understood. Since the Volunteer force came into existence it has had many a hard tussle with the authorities for an equitable recognition of its claims. It has happily possessed no inconsiderable number of sturdy combatants within its own ranks, and it has had the good fortune to have created hosts of admirers outside who have championed its interests; but somehow—and the cause is hard to account for—it has had the ill-luck to make but very few friends at the War Office. The assumption is that as the Volunteers have never been consent to stand open-mouthed and be thankful for whatsoever might be dropped therein, they have been regarded by the officials as a confoundedly dissatisfied set, who were continually asking for something they had not got, always giving lots of trouble, and, therefore, to be snub-whensoever possible.

The history of the long-service medal has afforded occasions and possibilities in the afore mentioned direction such as have scarcely ever presented themselves in the past. It is hardly necessary to mention that the opportunities for rubbing off old scores have not been neglected. Reasonably-minded people would no doubt, in the plenitude of their innocence, suppose that the permanent officials, who must of necessity be the advisers of a civilian Secretary for War, would be desirous of advancing the interests of a branch of the Service which helps to create a need for them to occupy their stools, and is, as a consequence one of the causes which justifies the payment of their salaries. Repeat-