

ces, might in itself lead to dismemberment of the Empire—truly the greatest catastrophe which could befall the British race.

Well indeed would it be if by the formation, as Sir George Chesney and others would have it, of an Imperial Council, or otherwise, Imperial federation should be brought a step nearer accomplishment and the very name of "Colonies" should fall into disuse, and we came instead to speak of the different "countries" which make up our common Empire.

To return to our immediate subject, the Canadian Militia, events, in the world's history follow each other so closely that each one in its turn quickly passes from the public memory. Few outside Canada itself remember that this Force but nine years ago placed at a few days' notice 5,000 men in the field in order to suppress Riel's rebellion in the North-West Territories, besides in the same year of 1885 supplying, at two hours' notice, nearly 3,000 men in aid of the civil authority at Montreal.

How well the Canadian Militia acquitted itself in the performance of the former task is, perhaps, hardly sufficiently appreciated in this country. Sir Frederick Middleton, who was Major-General in command of the North-West Field Force, in his General Order issued upon its breaking-up, expressing his great satisfaction, observed that during the whole time of the operations he had not had to assemble one court-martial; and, in fact, there had been an almost total absence of crime. The troops, the General goes on to remark, "have had great hardships to undergo and real difficulties to overcome, and have borne and met them like men, with real cheerfulness and without complaint. They, as untried Volunteer soldiers, have had to move in a country where an extraordinary scare existed, and against an enemy with whom it was openly prophesied it would be unable to cope, unless with great superiority of numbers. The scare they disregarded, as shown by the fact that during the whole three months not more than two or three false alarms took place in camp, and the prophecy they falsified by beating back the enemy with a fighting line only equal, if not inferior, to him in numbers. Each regiment, corps, or arm of the Service has vied one against the other, and each has equally well done its duty." This assuredly is a testimony of which any body of troops might well be proud.

Defects there certainly are in the present system governing the Canadian Militia, and improvement is necessary in its equipment, but of the extreme patriotism and devotion of the men composing it there can be no possibility of doubt, and we heartily wish success to the praiseworthy efforts of our contemporary the Canadian Military Gazette to induce Canadians to look upon their Militia more seriously than they have been accustomed to, as something more than an organisation of special constables available when required to aid the civil power in exerting its authority over riotous subjects.

England's participation in a big European war would result, our contemporary feels assured, in at least a large portion of the active Militia being placed on service, for Canada would have to be defended, there is "enough patriotism in Canada to insist upon the defence of the Dominion in a time of emergency entailing as slight a drain as possible upon the military resources of the Imperial Government."

Will, our contemporary pertinently asks, Great Britain, with her Colonies scattered all over the world, and the necessity of protecting the shores of her own "tight little island," be able, in the event of a great war, to spare sufficient naval force to protect unassisted the Canadian seaboard? Considering the present strength of our Navy, we think that Canada should find no difficulty in fully appreciating the folly of depending wholly on the Navy for the defence of the Dominion in the event of a European war.

We can most readily believe that as soon as the loyal people of Canada realise that their Militia is Canada's contribution towards the great scheme of Imperial defence they will insist on its being put on a more sound footing.—The United Service Gazette.



### ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE CLUB OF QUEBEC.

The tenth annual meeting of the Royal Military College Club of Canada was held in the City of Toronto, on Saturday the 24th of February. Through the kindness of the president and members of the Canadian Military Institute the meeting was held in their rooms. The following officers and members of the club were in attendance:

President, Lieut. R. W. Leonard, U. L., Brantford, Ont.

Vice-President, Capt. H. S. Greenwood, R. L., Cornwall, Ont.

Hon. Secretary-Treas., Capt. Ernest F. Wurtele, R. L., Quebec.

Managing Committee, Lieut. D. C. Campbell, U. L., Ottawa; Lt. Fred W. White, U. L., Ottawa; Lt. L. Homfray Irving, R. L., and Lt. W. A. H. Kerr, U. L., of Toronto, Ont.

Members—Maj. S. J. A. Denison, R.R.C.I., London, Ont.; Capt. W. M. Davis, 22nd Batt., Woodstock, Ont.; Capt. F. M. Gaudet, R.C.A., Kingston, Ont.; Capt. J. Drummond McKay, 10th Batt., Toronto, Ont.; Capt. J. Chas. MacDougall, R.R.C.I., Toronto; Capt. G. Twining, R.E., Kingston, Ont.; Capt. W. F. Van Buskirk, R.L., Stratford; Lt. A. W. Burnham, U.L., Whithy, Ont.; Lt. Francis Joseph Dixon, U.L., Toronto; Lt. A. T. K. Evans, U.L., Toronto; Lt. E. T. B. Gillmore, Ottawa Field Battery, Ottawa; Lt. J. A. Hesketh, London Field Battery; Lt. A. K. Kirkpatrick, U.L., Smith's Falls, Ont.; Lt. H. J. Lamb, U. L., Quebec; Lt. J. H. Laurie, R.R.C.I., Toronto; Lt. H. A. Panet, U.L., Smith's Falls, Ont.; Lt. H. R. Pousset, 36th Batt., Toronto; Lt. H. R. Strickland, U.L., Lakefield, Ont.; Lt. W. G. Yorston, U.L., Truro, N.S., and Messrs. W. C. Brough, A. H. N. Kennedy, E. F. R. Tate and W. G. Warner, of Toronto.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m. by the president and adjourned for luncheon at 1.30 after having adopted the minutes of the last annual meeting, and fully considered the constitution and by-laws as amended and revised by the Managing Committee, and several questions touching upon the welfare of the club and its members.

The meeting re-assembled at 3 and adjourned at 4.30. The afternoon session was principally taken up with the election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted as follows:

President, Lt. E. H. Drury, U. L., Island Falls, Me.

Vice-Presidents, Lieut. Francis Joseph Dixon, U. L., Toronto, Ont.; Lieut. D. C. Campbell, U. L., Ottawa, Ont.

Hon. Secretary-Treas., Capt. Ernest F. Wurtele, R. L., Quebec, P. Q., re-elected.

Managing Committee, Capt. J. B. Cochran, U. L., R.M.C., Kingston, Ont.; Lt. L. Homfray Irving, R. L., Toronto, Ont., re-elected; Capt. D. MacPherson, R. L., Montreal, P. Q., re-elected; Lt. Fred W. White, U. L., Ottawa, Ont., re-elected; Capt. H. S. Greenwood, R. L., Cornwall, Ont.

The annual dinner was held in the evening at the Walker House. Covers were laid for about fifty and a most enjoyable evening was spent. The club guests present were: Lt. Col. W. D. Otter, D.A.G.; Mr. W. McLean, M.P.; Gentleman Cadet Batt. Sgt. Major W. C. Heneker, of the Royal Military College, Kingston.

The private guests were as follows: Lt. Cols. Sweny, J. F. Turnbull, R.C.D.; R. B. Hamilton, Q.O.R.; J. Mason, R.G.; Surg-Major F. W. Strange, R.R.C.I.; Majors L. Buchan, R.R.C.I.; H. M. Pellatt, Q.O.R.; Capt. F. L. Lessard, R.C.D., and Messrs. W. Forester, R.C.D.; R. Myles, T.F.B., and E. B. Temple.

After the toasts of the "Queen" and our "Governor-General" had been honoured, the Hon. Secretary, Capt. Ernest F. Wurtele, read letters of regret from Hon. J. C. Patterson, Minister of Militia and Defence, Major General Ivor Herbert, commanding the Militia; Major General, D. R. Cameron, commandant Royal Military College; Hon. Geo. A. Kirkpatrick, Lt. Governor of Ontario; Col. Sir Casimir Gzowski, Mr. Forshaw Day, Royal Military College, and Mr. Willison, of the Globe.

When the menu had been disposed of an interesting toast list, interspersed with songs and banjo selections, was entered upon.

Mr. Strickland, in proposing the toast of "The Government of Canada," thanked them for the interest they had taken in the R.M.C. He compared the Canadian College with the American Academy at West Point, and contrasted the policy of the American Government, who give all military appointments to graduates of their institution, with that of the Canadian Government in bringing strangers from England, of whom they know nothing, and placing them over the heads of the graduates of the R.M.C. He said that the Canadian Government fixes a standard up to which its graduates must come, and he did not see why those graduates should be neglected and strangers brought in. The evidences of good-will shown by the present Minister might, he said, lead to the finding of employment for the graduates in this country, and might thus stop their present enforced emigration.

Mr. W. F. Maclean, M.P., responded to the toast. He said he had been impressed with the treatment of the graduates by the Government, and that he did not think the Government's conduct in overlooking the graduates was right. He had found in his brief experience of political life that there was nothing so bad for the politician as patronage, and he wished sincerely that he could be rid of it tomorrow. He believed that every appointment should go to the man of most merit. Positions in the Northwest Mounted Police, etc., should be given to graduates of the college, and politics should have nothing to do with the appointments. He believed that Mr. Patterson was anxious to do all he could for the college, and that he was doing everything in his power to strengthen the military force of the country, but politics were undoubtedly in his way. It has been charged that the school was English in its tendency. Mr. Maclean, after giving an eloquent description of the Englishman's character, said that the school could not imbue a better idea than this. He closed a good speech by expressing the pleasure it afforded him to be present and promising to do all in his