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An excellent plan of availing of the offer of Imperial commissions for young Canadians having some militia training and able to pass the prescribed examinations, is about to be tried by a couple of cadets from the Royal Military College, who having put in two years at that institution will now join the militia for the training required and then present themselves for the examinations, which their two years at College should enable them to pass. Should they desire to do so the cadets will thus be able to utilize the hitherto unused six commissions offered to the militia, as well as the four offered annually to the College, which latter are as a general rule promptly taken up. They go to the cadets first in their classes, and of course there is always uncertainty about who will be first until the term draws to a close.

How attractive military drill may be made, was forcibly illustrated at the Army and Navy Exhibition recently held by the ladies of Ottawa, and to which reference has already been made. They did not by any means confine themselves to the march past or purely exhibition drill, but the most useful Cavalry, Artillery and Infantry practices were performed. A detachment of eighteen young ladies representing the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards went through the sword exercise, pursuing practice and foot parades of cavalry with remarkable success, thanks to the painstaking instruction bestowed by Capt. Gourdeau, who never had smarter recruits. The artillery squad interested and pleased the local gunners and all other beholders by their fine appearance and precise drill. In addition to going through the gun drill for loading and firing two 9-pr. guns, the detachment skilfully performed the operation of mounting and dismounting a light field gun borrowed for the occasion from the Stores department. For smartness, steadiness and accuracy of drill the performance of these young ladies could scarcely have been excelled even by the gallant gunners of our militia. The complicated drill was learned in a remarkably short space of time, with Capt. Bliss, of the Ottawa Field Battery, as the Instructor. The thunders of applause accorded the lady artillerists were a reward well deserved by class and instructor alike. The large detachment representing the Governor General's Foot Guards gave a very pleasing exhibition of fancy drill, marching drill, and physical drill. The performance of the three detachments mentioned above drew immense crowds to the little theatre in the gun shed, and so popular were they that a repetition was given on a large stage in the main hall on Saturday evening, when the other uniformed corps, representing the 5th Royal Scots, the 6th Fusiliers, the 43rd Battalion, the Canadian Navy, and the Nurses of the Hospital on behalf of which the exhibition was organized, joined in a most effective tableau. The uniforms were

without exception, extremely correct, and it goes without saying that they have never been more charmingly set off. It is gratifying to record that the affair was a brilliant success financially as well as artistically.

In an interesting article on the "New Imperialism," the gradual and inevitable outcome of Britain's Colonial development, the *Broad Arrow* thus treats of the changed relations of the Colonies and the Empire: "A new Imperial spirit has been born. It has changed our way of looking at our Colonies, and it has changed the way in which the Colonies look at us. Colonies are no longer regarded as a hindrance and a burden; they are outlets, breeding-grounds, opportunities for the working out of new ideas; they are a source of strength and dignity; they are veritable plantations. All our mother-ideas find in them new fields for development. They extend our language, our literature, our force, our trade, even our personality. Upon their part the Colonists have changed; responsibility has matured them. They feel they are parts of a great Empire, and they are proud of the fact. They have, in one or two instances, sent us soldiers, and they will feel the burden of obligation more as time rolls on its course. They have received much, and they will cheerfully acknowledge the debt. They visit us, and we welcome them. All our politicians, to their credit be it said, join in recognising the good done by Colonial statesmen and governors. We are all Imperialists now, so greatly have events, ideas, and tendencies changed. We are proud of our Empire, we renew our youth, and we challenge comparison with the older Empires that perished as the centre grew effete. Strong in centre and circumference, we face the future in a spirit of buoyant hope and dignified resolution."

The influence of the new smokeless powder upon the conduct of troops in action has recently formed the subject of discussion in the French press. It is urged by the opponents of the innovation that, as far as infantry are concerned, the effect will be decidedly injurious, as the young soldiers of the short-service system lack the experience and training which can alone steady their nerves, and render them indifferent to the terrible scenes of the fight which a friendly curtain of smoke serves to conceal. They also contend that the smoke, by concealing danger, assists the confidence which naked exposure would in the case of young troops utterly destroy, and that there is a stimulant and a tonic in the smoke and smell of gunpowder which sustains the fighting capacity. Noticing these contentions the *Broad Arrow* says: "If we compare these arguments with those adduced by the advocates of smokeless powder, we see at once how little cause there need be for misgiving as to the effect of its introduction into our army. It is perfectly true that the young troops of to-day are naturally deficient in the confidence that only comes by training, and that the sight of danger without the confidence to face it is a cause of weakness; but it has, in our view, a peculiar applicability to British soldiers, being founded on attributes of character which show themselves not only in the soldier but in the race. It is a notorious fact that panic, rare enough with British troops, has never taken place when the exact proportions of danger, however great, are fully exposed. It is only when, from one reason or another, they cannot