

Colonel, in which case they are exempt from examination. Military secretaries, assistant military secretaries and aides-de-camp, who, as forming the personal staff of a General officer, are selected by the General himself, are likewise appointed without a previous education at the Staff College. Military secretaries are not examined on appointment; assistant military secretaries and aides-de-camp are required to pass a qualifying examination."

It is to be remarked that between the time of the formation of the College and the issue of this report, the necessary period of service preliminary to competition for entrance to the College had been extended from three to five years.

After a most minute and exhaustive investigation, the Commissioners came to the conclusion that although as the College was originally organized it was thought likely to become an institution to which the ablest men in the Army would resort, it would appear that these expectations had not been fulfilled; and their Report stated, in no uncertain voice, that the cause which seemed to deter many of the best officers from undertaking the Staff College course appeared to be "that the fact of having obtained a Staff College certificate does not open up a sufficiently certain prospect of Staff employment to compensate for the seclusion and application implied in two years of uninterrupted study, exclusive of the severe preparation required to pass the original entrance examination." As a remedy for this unsatisfactory condition of affairs, the Commissioners recommended that "it should be explicitly laid down that, except under certain special circumstances, no appointment on the General Staff is to be held by any but those who have passed the Staff College examinations; and that in addition to all General Staff appointments those of Military Secretary and Assistant Military Secretary should, with similar exceptions, be held only by officers possessing a Staff College certificate." At the same time the Commission recommended that the course at the College should be made more practical and less theoretical than it had hitherto been, and that a Staff College certificate should be placed within the reach of any officer who could pass the Staff College examination, even though he should not have gone through the residential course at the College. *Guarantees were also adopted to prevent mere bookworms from entering the College, and great stress was laid upon the necessity of candidates for the College being good horsemen. The latter recommendations were acted upon; the course of study at the College was made eminently practical, and Colonel Hamley, a soldier hardly more distinguished in literature and military science than in the hunting field, was placed at the head of the establishment as independent Commandant in the summer of 1870.*

It would have thus appeared that thereafter no possible reason could remain for not carrying out in their integrity the recommendations of the Royal Commission—that no appointment on the General Staff is to be held by any but those who have passed the Staff College examination, and that in addition to all General Staff appointments those of Military Secretary and Assistant Military Secretary should be held only by officers possessing a Staff College certificate. Nor does it appear that any valid reason did exist. But the memory of the Crimea is now rapidly fading away. The idea of our being engaged in war is less and less vividly brought before our minds. It is often more pleasant, as long as actual service is not

imminent, for a General Officer to have a nephew or son or son-in-law on his Staff than a Staff College graduate whom he has never before met. This is but human; and when the latest edition of the Queen's Regulations was issued, in the Spring of last year, it was suddenly found that a *coup d'état* had been effected by the Horse Guards. Instead of the recommendation of the Royal Commission being carried out, the officers who had passed the Staff College found that some of the appointments which had previously been reserved for them had been taken away. All the posts in the department of the Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General had formerly been reserved for the graduates of the Staff College; but by the new regulations the superior posts in these departments were thrown open to direct appointments, only the inferior posts being guaranteed solely to officers who held Staff College certificates. Even this guarantee appears to be, however, of but little avail, as one of the most important of the very appointments promised to the Staff College by the Queen's Regulations issued last year has within the last few weeks been given to an officer who has never been to the Staff College and has not even been upon active service. In this matter the public are much interested. A large sum of public money has been spent in building the Staff College, and a considerable amount is annually required to pay the professors and instructors. Commissions and Committees have over and over again reported that an excellent return would be made for the expenditure if able and energetic officers could be induced to go through the College course, and the best means to lead such men to do so is by insisting upon every officer appointed to the Staff holding a Staff College certificate. Those who are sufficiently instructed not to require a residence at the College are able to pass the final examination, and thus without delay obtain a certificate. As was proved, however during the period antecedent to the Crimean War, as long as officers have the idea that Staff appointments can be obtained, through personal acquaintance or relationship, by officers who have not passed the College examination, promising officers may consider it time thrown away to qualify for the Staff appointments which may never be bestowed upon them. On the other hand if it is once clearly understood that to pass the College examination is the only door to the Staff, many good men will undergo the examination who might naturally decline to do so if that examination leads to no advantage. Nor is this without importance to the country, for, however good a regimental officer may be, he must be all the better as a Staff officer for having some practical knowledge of the higher branches of his profession. No certainly could not be worse, and it has been indubitably proved to the satisfaction of numerous Commissions, and by the experience of facts, that men will not go through a severe course of education unless they have a fair prospect of some consequential reward. The experience war led to the establishment of the Senior Department, the experience of war caused the formation of the Staff College. The neglect to employ officers of the Senior Department in peace caused the extinction of that department. The same cause at present seriously threatens the utility of the Staff College.

The Government have decided to dredge the Deep Cut, to facilitate the means of reaching the Agricultural Show grounds, at the forthcoming Provincial Exhibition.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

*The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion or communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.*

(FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT)

Military District No. 6—5th Brigade.

Two Battalions of this Brigade terminated their annual drill on the 20th inst., at their respective Headquarters. Joliette Battalion at Joliette, under command of Major Sheppard; Three Rivers Batt. at Rivière du Loup Enhaut, under Major Lamberts—both camps being under the supervision of Lt. Col. Hanson, Major of Brigade.

Lt. Col. Harwood, D. A. General of the District, inspected both battalions on the 17th and 19th inst., and expressed himself highly pleased with the progress made. The companies were up to their full quota, and the duties of camp life cheerfully performed.

No spirituous liquors were allowed in the camps—the men were orderly, and at the termination of the camps the defaulter's sheet was handed in free of names.

Quite a number of the elite of both towns were present at the inspections—among the number the Members of Parliament—showing by their presence the interest taken by them in the Active Force of the country. Major Brohaut, District Paymaster, paid off the Battalions previous to their leaving camp, and the men returned to their several company Headquarters singing (as is proverbial with them) the old familiar Canadian boat songs.

HALIFAX, 17th June, 1875.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR,—Last evening Lt. Col. Sawyer, Brigade Major, inspected the four city batteries of the 2nd Halifax Brigade Garrison Artillery, which mustered in unusual strength, viz. Ten officers, nine sergeants, and sixty rank and file. After inspection the Brigade Major in a neat speech, complimented Col. McPherson on the cleanly appearance as well as remarkable stature of some of the men under his command. This Brigade has lately been supplied with new busbies, which greatly add to its warlike appearance. It was supposed that the Honorable Minister of Militia would be present at this inspection, but he prefers to see the whole of the city force together in a brigade field day, which is expected to take place in a few days, when it is to be hoped that not a man will be absent of the five hundred and fifty who compose the whole of the Militia in the city brigade.

CÆTERA DESUNT.

We have received from Major D. J. Fraser, Treasurer of Province of Quebec Rifle Association, the Programme for the seventh annual prize meeting of the Association to be held at Point St. Charles Ranges, Montreal, on Tuesday 10th August, and following days. The prizes offered in the several competitions are very liberal. Comprising in all some \$2,500 besides the usual cups. Any one may become a member of P. of Q. R. A. on payment of \$2.00. Associations affiliating with P. of Q. R. A. are entitled to twenty members' tickets on payment of \$10, provided the names of the members are reported at the commencement of the meeting. Affiliated Associations will be charged 25 per cent. extra if fee be not paid before the 7th of August.