

OPINION OF CHANGES, BY A VETERAN.

It might be of interest to quote the opinion of one who fought through 1812-13 and 14, and who lived to see and lament the retrograde steps of new militia enactments. In the biography of the Hon. William Hamilton Merritt, who was Lieut. in the "Niagara Light Dragoons," 1812, and Capt. commanding a troop of "Provincial Dragoons" ("Niagara Frontier Guards") in 1813-14 until taken prisoner at the battle of Lundy's Lane, we find his biographer (J. P. Merritt, his son) states:—"1846.—A new militia bill was brought in, on which he expressed a preference for the old law of 1808, inaugurated under the immortal Brock, whereby flank companies were always kept enrolled and trained for an emergency, thereby forming an active force, ready at any time to take the field, and form a rallying body for the rest. The wisdom of this scheme was well tried in 1812, when nearly the entire militia force was ready to take the field in defence of their country in from 12 to 24 hours after the declaration of war." And again:

"1854.—In March of this year we find the first movement towards establishing a volunteer organization, which afterwards entirely supplanted the old militia, although we doubt if the results of the movements has paid us good interest on the money spent over its institution, as we are still without the efficient home army of 1794, 1812 or even 1837."

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND THE FIRST IN THE EMPIRE.

Australia and New Zealand have the honor of being the first of the nations within the British Empire to adopt for present requirements the principle of patriotic, unpaid, or universal naval or military training. Their recent Acts show similarity of spirit to that of the old Canadian Act of 1808.

AUSTRALIA, 1910.

EXTRACTS FROM AUSTRALIA NAVAL AND MILITARY DEFENCE ACT 1903, 1909, 1910.

PROMOTIONS.

"11A—All promotions in the Citizens' Forces to the rank of officer and N. C. O. shall be from those who have served in the ranks of the Citizens' Forces and the appointments and promotions shall be allotted to those in the next lower grade who are most successful in competitive examinations. The standards and manner of holding such examinations shall be prescribed in the regulations. All books required for such examination shall be issued to candidates without charge.