

are in it, and to the advantage (from their point of view) of worthless officers is as much as a screen is, thereby charitably covering their intellectual shortcomings. They hug themselves with the thought that an indulgent public sees in them real officers, and not uneducated boors masquerading in soldier's clothes, being uneducated and in no way gentlemen; it is impossible to teach them the rudiments of the knowledge an officer should have, or the manners.

There is much truth in the proverb that "Birds of a feather flock together," and "By his friends shall a man be known." Therefore, the best men, the class that should give Canada the good officers, naturally refrain from joining any Corps. One or two utter outsiders will spoil the chances of any Regiment getting smart young fellows of education as officers, and the Corps gradually gets nothing but the useless class. Logically, as this state of affairs in individual regiments ruins it, so does a continuance of the system ruin the whole force throughout the country, until we finally have a so-called military organization without that absolute essential for the justification of its existence, viz., technical knowledge. What is the remedy to the present state of affairs? Simply by every C. O. being himself of the fittest class for the position, and by his insisting on only recommending similar gentlemen for the vacancies in his own regiment for commissions. Secondly, by the authorities at H. Quarters insisting on the regulations relating to examinations in professional subjects being adhered to, and by discontinuancing the deviations and anomalies that have crept into the system of conducting the same.

As regards the first portion of the remedy, an objection is often raised, but it is easily answered. It is said that C. Os. often have no choice in the selection of their officers; that they must take those that offer or they will get none. If they really cannot get the right kind, it is better by far to get none. Disband a corps that can only be officered by uneducated men, who are for that reason incapable of acquiring any technical knowledge. A small reliable force is better than an armed mob. This is too palpable a military truth to require further explanation to any reasonable being. Again, it is an undeserved slur on the young men of Canada to consider that it would be hard to get the kind of men the Militia requires as officers throughout the *whole force* if the methods outlined here are adopted in earnest.