

ducts of military literature actually are. Besides the more technical military books and magazines, the work of our reviewer will include references to such other books and magazines, as may be deemed of general interest to the members of the militia service.

Why this delay in distributing these long service decorations, sprung upon us with such a loud flourish of trumpets some months back? Was the statement premature? Has the Imperial Government decided that the decoration cannot be given to the Canadian militia? Have the poor, overworked staff at headquarters been unable to find time to prepare the list of those qualified to receive the decoration, or whatever in the world is the matter? If the delay is on the other side and there has been no definite decision on the question yet it is to be hoped that the Dominion Government will take advantage of the delay to represent plainly to the Imperial authorities that it would be absurd to give Canadian militiamen similar decorations to those awarded the English volunteers, and that moreover the militiamen would not be at all pleased with this grading. The English volunteer force can only be considered as England's fourth line of defence, a reserve behind the navy, the regular army and the militia. It can only be called out for actual service in the event of foreign invasion, an extremely remote contingency, and it has never smelt powder yet except on the rifle range and at field days.

Just consider, now, the difference of the standing of the Canadian militia, and say whether it is fair to class them with the English volunteers. The militia force is Canada's first line of defence. Not only are the corps composing it compelled to serve in the case of foreign invasion, a not at all unlikely contingency, by the bye, but they are always liable to be called out at a moment's notice in the case of rebellion and internal disorder and even in aid of the civil power. Not only are our militia corps liable to perform all these important duties, but they have served in each contingency specified time and time again. Is it any wonder then that members of the force are inclined to be indignant rather than grateful at the Imperial Government's suggestion to grant them the same long service decoration as is bestowed upon the English volunteers?

Of course the Canadian militiamen have no desire to belittle the English volunteers. We are proud to think of them

as comrades in arms, enrolled under the same old flag. We know what a splendor of men they are. We have remarked the sacrifices they make with sympathetic admiration, for we know how it is ourselves. We envy their drill and discipline and think we do very well indeed if we can equal them in those respects. Still our responsibilities and duties are more important than their's, and we want the powers that be to remember this and recognize it. If the Dominion Government has not yet pointed out to the Imperial authorities the inappropriateness of giving our militia the volunteer decoration, we should feel more surprised at the omission than we naturally feel humiliated by the well meant but ill advised proposal of the Imperial authorities. According to all accounts, a decoration is to be awarded the British militia for long service. As we are militia, and not volunteers, that should certainly be the decoration for our service. In the meantime it would be just as well for the daily papers to stop talking about "our volunteers," for we have nothing of the sort in Canada.

Talking of honors reminds me that His Excellency the Governor General has not yet appointed any extra aides-de-camp. The holding of these appointments is naturally regarded as a great honour in the service and it is only proper that it should. As these positions are purely honorary our Governors General have in their hands a very simple and efficient way of recognizing and rewarding meritorious services in the militia. If it was once generally acknowledged that the extra A. D. C. ships were awarded to officers on account of their own meritorious services in the militia or as an acknowledgment of the efficiency of the corps with which they are connected, they would be more prized than ever. Some of these appointments before now have gone to officers whose services to the militia have been of the very slenderest kind, whose only claim to recognition, in fact, lay in their position in the realm of politics or their capacity for lobbying and pushing themselves forward at the expense of better men. Such appointments are of course a positive injury to the militia.

What Canadian militiaman, I wonder, does not take a sort of personal interest in the old Hundredth Regiment, the Royal Canadians as they are now called in remembrance of their Canadian origin? That there is still a hearty Canadian sentiment in the regiment is shown by the occasional references to this country

in the regimental magazine, "The Maple Leaf." Among some extracts from that interesting little publication reproduced in another column, will be remarked a suggestion to observe Dominion Day as a regimental day by the men wearing maple leaves in their caps. Evidently the men of the regiment are proud of the fair country whose name they bear. Let us show them that Canadians are as proud of the gallant regiment which bears their beloved country's name, and will do it with honour, we feel sure, before the very faces of the Queen's enemies, if occasion should arise.

The publishers of the Canadian Military Gazette have communicated with the commanding officer of the regiment, and if he sees his way clear to authorize his men to wear the maple leaf next Dominion Day, we propose, with the assistance of our subscribers, to forward the necessary leaves to the regiment in India. The cost of transportation, etc., will of course be light, but our desire is to have the little subscription list contributed to by the largest number of individuals possible so that the leaves may be a contribution from the Canadian militia as a whole. Consequently a scheme of limiting the subscriptions will have to be devised; but there is plenty of time for details yet. Meantime please ask your lady friends to save some of the finest autumn leaves they can collect, pack them carefully and forward them to this office. The men in India will wear their maple leaves all the prouder, Dominion Day, if they know that they were the very best procurable in all the Broad Dominion, and picked and selected by Canada's fairest daughters at that.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Q. 1. Did the Royal Grenadiers of Toronto wear their busbies to the front in 1885, or did they wear helmets? 2. Has the helmet been adopted as the universal head-dress in the infantry in the Imperial army?
SPIKE.

A. 1. It being winter when the Riel Rebellion broke out the Royal Grenadiers wore their winter head-dress (sealskin wedges) to the front. They of course took their forage caps also, and wore them after the warmer weather set in. They did not wear helmets. 2. No. The Guards wear bearskins, the fusilier regiments wear busbies, the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) wear the shako and the Rifle Brigade wear a head dress of special pattern, a compromise between the seal skin wedge and the old rifle busby.

Q. To settle a dispute, can you inform me if Lord Wolsey ever laid down the rule that twelve miles a day was far enough for men to march?