

The Canadian Militia Gazette

THE POPULAR ORGAN OF THE ACTIVE FORCE OF THE DOMINION.

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

RESPECTING the rumoured possibility that the camps for the year may not be held until the fall, an Ontario officer writes: "I hope that such will not be the case. September would be a most inconvenient time, the larger number of the farmers not having finished harvest, even in early seasons. I remember the last time we had a camp in September; it was the hardest job possible get out the men, the ranks being filled with a poor lot of substitutes."

THE *Broad Arrow* publishes an appreciative review of the Annual Report of the Militia Department. Pleasure is expressed that "the District Staff continue to hammer away and show up the many shortcomings which still hamper the really splendid force." Col. Panet is complimented upon his report as Deputy Minister, which is characterized as "well drawn up" and "decidedly progressive." His recommendations, as well as those of Col. Walker Powell, Adjutant-General, Lt.-Col. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery, and Major-General Cameron, Commandant of the Royal Military College, are cordially endorsed. "On the whole," says *Broad Arrow*, "the report on the general state of the force is far more satisfactory than it has been; and we may safely say that, although there is still much to be done, the improvement is entirely due to the unceasing persistency of the successive general officers in command."

NOW THAT it is so much the custom to belittle the "March Past," the following argument in the other direction, taken from the *London Times'* report of the Eastern manoeuvres, will prove interesting:—"Theorists sneer at marching past, which, they say, takes up valuable time and is a relic of the pigtail and pipeclay days. They ask whether battles were ever won by marching past? Practical soldiers, and especially those who have had much to do with the Volunteers, takes a different view. Of course, too much time may be spent on marching past as on any other thing, and assuredly a battalion might march perfectly and be very inefficient in the field. On the other hand, marching past is a great steadier, and with the present tactics an occasional steadying is needed. It is, moreover, a test of drill and discipline. Above all, it renders the service popular, and the men like to be gazed at and applauded as they go past the saluting point. This is especially the case with the Volunteers, and I am convinced that with the great majority of the force Easter Monday would lose much of its attractions if the final march past were discontinued."

THE suggestion lately made by correspondents that commanding officers should be compelled to retire after a reasonable service, and thus make promotion steady, seems to meet with general favour. It seems a bit hard on the commanding officers, but the change would certainly tend to heighten the interest of the junior officers in their corps.

THE *Broad Arrow* deals in this interesting manner with Mr. Goldwin Smith's remarks respecting military affairs in his recently published book, "Canada and the Canadian Question": "As regards the desire that a Canadian officer should eventually command in Canada, nothing could be more natural. Mr. Goldwin Smith apparently forgets the great number of Canadian gentlemen who have risen to distinction in the Imperial Service within the last thirty or forty years. At this moment no less than sixty-eight graduates of the Royal Military College of Canada hold commissions in the Imperial Army, twenty four of whom are in the corps of Royal Engineers and fourteen in the Royal Artillery. It is from these highly-educated men that the Canadians hope some day to secure their military commanders. Mr. Goldwin Smith may be right in saying that Canada will never contribute to Imperial armaments at her own expense, but she will pay for her own defence; and were England threatened with any European combina-