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A Canadian Cavalry Association.

Cavalry, we are told by the cable this week, are for the future to have no opportunities for brilliant performances such as have made immortal names for their brigades in the past. A writer—unnamed, and perhaps unknown and unknowing—has so declared in a German newspaper, and the world is to take his word that the future duties of cavalry will be to serve as outposts, to conceal infantry, to escort single detachments, and so forth; and in the faces of a superior enemy to dismount and seek protection by the use of the rifle. The lance, now being re-introduced in France and Germany, is declared to be absolutely useless in this age of repeating rifles and smokeless powder. Now all this may be true, or it may not, but the Canadian cavalry need not be anxious on the subject, as our militia do not set the military fashions.

Our cavalry, however, should take into serious consideration the very unsatisfactory position they occupy in the Canadian service, owing to lack of organization, the absence of a recognized leader, and of any system of comparing notes or communicating ideas or experience. Each troop, or regiment of cavalry where one has been formed, goes about its drill pretty much after its own fashion; there are no competitions, no reports from which the relative efficiency of the corps may be ascertained, and no prizes offered as an additional incentive to acquire proficiency. The cavalry are a moribund institution, or series of institutions. So were the artillery once—but what a change the Dominion Association has wrought! The whole system of instruction is arranged through this organization, and its competitions take place not only upon the central ranges, but upon every drill ground on which the artillery practise, a uniform system of instruction and reward being carried on throughout the whole Dominion. All ranks are stimulated to the performance of work quite outside of that possible in the twelve days regulation drill, for as the amount of instruction which can be given at the camps is altogether too limited, much dependance has to be placed upon work done voluntarily at local headquarters, where a uniform system is followed, inspired by the central organization.

A Cavalry Association and a Cavalry Inspector would similarly work wonders for this branch of the service; and were an effort made we are confident a strong, vigorous association could readily be established and maintained, with the financial assistance of course which the Department of Militia might be expected to give were an inclination shown by the cavalry officers to have the money applied in the same wise manner as that now spent on the artillery by their association and on the infantry by their numerous rifle shooting organizations. Perhaps the Military Institute could take the proper steps to organize the cavalry,

and it could at all events give valuable assistance to the project. We would like to have the subject discussed through the MILITIA GAZETTE, and shall open our columns to all who have a suggestion to offer.

Messenger Pigeon Service and the League.

From that fruitful source of new ideas, the Secretary of the Military Rifle League, there comes the suggestion of an immediate practical use to which to put the messenger pigeon service which General Cameron is endeavouring to establish in Canada, and the idea is certainly one to be commended. It is proposed that teams whose ranges are distant from the telegraph lines, should have birds to convey their scores to the nearest office, thus saving a great deal of time as well as adding a new interest to the events. While it is hoped that pigeon service will be adopted by a number of teams mainly through love of the sport, there are others who will derive substantial advantage from the introduction. The Prince Edward Islanders, for example, had a great deal of trouble sending and receiving their scores last season, on account of a cable company, as well as the C. P. R. telegraph company, having to handle the messages, and it is doubtful whether these could be sent next season at anything like the same cost. But the establishment of two pigeon stations, at Charlottetown on the Island and Sackville on the mainland, will enable the scores to be sent quite independent of the cable company, and with greater despatch than could otherwise be secured. Capt. Weeks has commenced preparations to train the corps of pigeons, and as he is an enthusiast about the birds it is safe to say that the project is in good hands. It is expected that a number of corps in out of the way places will adopt pigeon service, now that the idea has been promulgated. In the meantime those who know Secretary Pringle's capacity for making a success of anything he undertakes, will be disposed to congratulate General Cameron on his latest ally.

[Note and Comment.

An Army Order, published elsewhere in this issue, on the subject of decorations and medals, will be read with great interest in the Dominion, where since the armed unpleasantness of 1885 the wearing of medals has become so comparatively common. No longer will it be permissible to wear miniature medals in uniform; and from the wording of that part of the order prescribing that miniatures will be worn in evening dress (plain clothes) in the presence of members of the Royal Family, Viceroys and Governors General, and on public and official occasions, one would infer that they should not be worn in evening dress except on such occasions as specified.

The banquet tendered to the Minister of Militia, Sir Adolphe Caron, by the officers of the Fifth and Sixth Military Districts, took place on Monday evening, at the St. Lawrence Hall, Montreal, and the occasion proved exceedingly pleasant. Sir Adolphe was presented with a bronze statuette of himself before being called upon to reply to the toast of the evening. The Minister delivered a practical address, pointing out the various improvements noticeable of late years in connection with the