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CORRESPONDENCE.

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COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

The one thing wanting to make a complete success of the North-west expedition was the capture of Big Bear; and now, when the troops were already on their way home after having scattered the bulk of his followers, and when the country had made up its mind that the hunt was virtually abandoned, word comes most unexpectedly that this last of the active heads of the rebellion has been secured. If Canada was entitled to congratulate herself on the achievements of her field force before this event, she may now be pardoned for pointing with a great deal of pride to this further proof of good judgment on the part of the officers entrusted with the management of affairs, backed by efficient action on the part of the men they commanded. The active operations are now emphatically closed, and we are all waiting to welcome home officers and men alike with the enthusiasm which they have so honorably earned.

Preparations are on foot throughout the Dominion, and especially at the headquarters of the various corps on service with this end in view. We have no fear but that the progress of the troops from the most westerly town they encounter to the farthest east they reach will be one triumphal march, with all classes vying to do them honor, and we may safely leave the details of their reception in the hands of those most interested. But the celebrations should also embrace, as returns of larger armies invariably do, some military display, and there is

already much discussion as to where and how this should be conducted. Every city wants a share in it, and if the wishes of all were acceded to some of the regiments would scarcely reach home before autumn. Under these circumstances, the arrangement suggested by the Minister of Militia at the closing of the Royal Military College, of having a review of the western troops in Toronto and of the eastern contingent in Montreal, would seem to promise the greatest satisfaction with the least expense and delay. Now let this scheme be elaborated as the official programme for the reception, and let each regimental headquarters make such additional arrangements as may seem to it most suitable.

While we are thus able to congratulate ourselves on the successful issue of our Indian rising, the United States seems just on the point of beginning an Indian fight that looks exceedingly serious. The Apaches of Arizona and New Mexico, who some time ago murdered a lot of settlers, inhabit a country so broken and rugged that their subjection is a sufficiently difficult military problem; but now the Cheyennes in Indian territory threaten to give additional trouble to the War Department. Just what the cause of the outbreak is no one seems to know; but the Cheyennes would hardly have taken to the warpath, after nine years of peace, for a trifle. We in Canada will watch with interest and sympathy the steps taken for the restoration of peace by the Republic which accorded to us in our late campaign such lavish and generous praise.

The Royal Military College has closed another year's work by the graduation of eleven cadets, who, as will be seen by the result of their examinations published in full in another column, acquitted themselves most creditably. For the thirty commissions offered this year by the Imperial service, all the members of the three senior classes in the College who desired such appointments, as well as four graduates of previous years, have been recommended. It is most probable that these prizes would have been eagerly accepted by former graduates, had not such a limit of age been fixed as to exclude the majority of them; the result being that for three of the commissions offered no recommendations have been made.

In discussing the future of the British yeomanry force, which now consists of 14,000 men, the *Broad Arrow* strongly advocates that they should be transformed into mounted riflemen, a change which would probably meet with great opposition from the yeomanry themselves, where "successive generations of families have ridden knee to knee in the ranks, the tenants of successive generations of landlords who have been their officers"; notwithstanding the assurance that "the object is not to convert the men into infantry soldiers, but so to modify their equipment and training that they would be enabled to act on foot and to shoot well." "They should do their cavalry work as they do now, and improve the dismounted service so as to combine the useful features of the existing organization with the new duties which it is