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**THE STRONGHOLD OF THE
PACIFIC.**

A BRITISH army officer has stated that the strengthening and equipping of the military and naval stations at Esquimalt, B.C., had for a long time been going on in a very quiet manner. This has been looked upon by the British authorities as one of the most powerful and important stations in any part of the British Empire. Vast quantities of ammunition have been shipped there in small instalments, and the fortifications are as impregnable as time, patience and science can make them. The expenditure on this station has been enormous, but it was evidently the intention of the War Department and Admiralty to make this place the stronghold of the Pacific. There were also a large number of engineers at Esquimalt, a condition which was arrived at in the same quiet way that the place had been armed and fortified. In conclusion, the officer said that it would surprise the world when the extent of the works and fortifications became known.

GOOD FOR CANADA.

THE offer of the 8th New Brunswick Cavalry to serve in the Soudan has been a splendid advertisement for Canada at home. We notice from the British papers coming to hand that they are making a good deal of it. They give us much credit we do not deserve, however. The im-

pression seems to prevail that Col. Denville's offer was to supply a regiment fully equipped ready to take the field and serve through the campaign at no expense to the British Government. If this be true it is a most generous offer, and Canada and Britain must feel deeply grateful to the gallant officers and men of that corps. It must represent an outlay on the part of each of them in expenses and time lost of over a thousand dollars. Not only this, but hundreds of officers and men volunteered from every part of Canada to join the 8th, we presume on the same terms. We are not aware whether the regiment were to pay their own transportation from New Brunswick to Egypt or not, but no doubt that was intended. It would be a mere matter of detail. Possibly one of the troop ships would be sent out.

There seems to be an idea in this country, however, that the offer was one of so many recruits to be taken into the British Service, uniformed, transported and paid out of the British exchequer. If this be the case we had better keep quiet until the possibility of its acceptance passes over, praying meanwhile that nothing more will be heard of it. Such an offer is not appreciated. They do not want it at home. It would take six months or a year before such a regiment would be ready to take the field. They have thousands of thoroughly trained men at home who could take the field in a few days without putting the country to the expense of a year's training.

If we really want to show Britain some tangible proof of our desire to assist her let us organize a provisional regiment, and we can easily do it. Take two squadrons from the N. W. Mounted Police and "A" and "B" Squadrons R.C.D. Assemble them at Quebec. Recruit up to full strength, from the 8th chiefly, and elsewhere. By September we might have a regiment fit to do credit to Canada, which would serve with no cost to the Home Government and very little extra cost to ourselves, for we would not need to fill the places of the absent squadrons. We may have an opportunity of doing so, for this Soudan campaign is not going to be a short, sharp one, but it looks as if it were good for some years. Britain knows her business; she is in no hurry.

It must not be thought for a moment that we are belittling the offer of the 8th Hussars. They deserve very great credit for their efficiency, in the face of many discouragements.

THE MAJOR-GENERAL'S TACT.

Major-General Gascoigne certainly deserves credit for his successful efforts to settle the troubles that arose between Lieut.-Col. Strathy and some of the officers in the Royal Scots. He came to Montreal at considerable personal sacrifice, and spent three days hearing both sides and finding out for himself where the real difficulty was. He induced both parties to set aside personal considerations and think only of the interests of the force. This ending is most satisfactory. It would have been a most unfortunate affair if the militia or the regiment lost the services of any of the officers. We have too few such men now in the force. As they stand to-day the Royal Scots have a staff of hardworking and efficient officers that is second to none in the militia.

The regiment should have two additional companies, bringing it up to the standard battalion. When the bonnets have been paid for the officers should turn their attention to this question.

"AN' IT'S DRILL ALL DAY."

Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, Quebec, late commandant of the R.C.D. School of Cavalry, returned last week from six months spent in Egypt. He comes back more enthusiastic than ever; his retirement has certainly not abated his interest in the Canadian militia. He saw a good deal of the Egyptian army and says they are a fine lot of men. They are thoroughly drilled and movements are performed with greater precision than the British regulars. They are very fond of drill. Even after they were dismissed they would form groups in the corner of the barracks square and drill each other. They did so much of this that a general order was issued forbidding drill excepting as detailed in orders.

In England Col. Turnbull saw Capt. Forrester, of the R.C. Dragoons, who is attached to the Scots Greys at Aldershot. He is doing well and promises to be one of the most creditable representatives Canada has yet sent over. He has already made himself as popular there in the mess as he is in this country.

A. C. O.'S ASSOCIATION.

NOW that our militia is justly attracting more attention from the public than for many years past, and as the Government seems at last to be alive to the