

Militia Items.

—The 65th Battalion has been inspected by the General commanding.

—A company of the 9th Fusiliers has just carried away the prize in a general competition with the various battalions in the Montreal district for smartness and efficiency in drill.

—Col. Van Straubenzee, D.A.G., and Col. Worsley, B.M., inspected the 57th Battalion, on the 15th ulto. This regiment paraded in full marching order, (an unusual thing with volunteers) and went through their work to the entire satisfaction of the inspecting officers, who complimented the officers and men upon the appearance and discipline of the corps.

—During the past month, Colonel Strange, R.A., D.I.A., accompanied by Capt. Chas. Short, B.B., C.A., has been on a tour of inspection throughout the Western District, when the following Field and Garrison batteries of artillery paraded for inspection, and also carried out their annual firing practice, viz: the Toronto, Welland, and Durham Field Batteries, and 1st Provincial Brigade of Field Artillery, (Guelph), and the Port Hope Battery of Garrison Artillery.

—The Port Hope garrison battery, under the command of Major Guernsey, were out during the past month for its annual drill. The men were placed under the instruction of Drill-Sergeant Howard, of "B" Battery, Kingston. The drilling was principally carried on in the drill shed, but gun drill took place on the old cricket ground at the lake shore.

—The review at London of the 26th Battalion by Major-General Luard took place at the northern end of Waterloo street in an open field. The Collegiate Institute cadets received a half holiday and joined in, under the direction of Mr. Houston. The cavalry also participated under the control of Major Fred. Peters, Deputy-Assistant-Adjutant-General, and Brigade-Major Moffat put the men through their facings, and at the close complimented them on the proficiency obtained. The camp broke up this morning at daylight.

SHELL PRACTICE OF THE TORONTO FIELD BATTERY.—On Saturday afternoon the Toronto Field Battery completed their annual drill by shell practice at the Woodbine Park. The good shooting of Wednesday was followed up by the rest of the men, and at the close the score was the best on Canadian record, and one that will be hard to beat anywhere. The four first places were won respectively by Gunner Mason, 43 points; Major Gray, 41 points; Gunner Thompson, 40 points; and Gunner McFarlane, 39 points—with several others among the thirties and close behind. The time was also considerably ahead of past years, eighty rounds being fired in 86 minutes, or two minutes and ten seconds better than last year. The total score was 489 points, and when compared with 414 points that won first prize for the Shefford (Que.) Field Battery in 1879, shows that the Toronto boys could give a good account of themselves if called to the front. When it is considered that the target is only six feet square, and placed at a distance of 1,500 yards, civilians will have some idea of the shooting that completely riddled it.—*Toronto Mail, Sept. 20.*

[This is not correct; the Ottawa Field Battery, Major Stewart, made a score of 517 points at its annual practice this summer.—*Ed. C. M. R.*]

Defence of Great and Greater Britain.

IMPERIAL AND COLONIAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN WAR.

In a matter of such vital importance as Imperial Defence, the main question at issue is this: How to secure with economy, yet truly and efficiently Imperial safety?

War sweeps away all "castles in the air," all false sentiment, and leaves nothing standing but bare, naked facts. It crumbles to dust false ideas and false hopes, and consolidates the power of one Empire by scattering to the winds the fanciful delusions of another. Therefore, in considering questions relating to defence, it is most important not to trust sentiment too far, but to weigh calmly and carefully practical arguments.

The Imperial position and dangers to which it is exposed, and the strategical operations necessary for its safety may thus be briefly epitomized:—

(1) The fallacy that colonial defence can be considered as an abstract question, or that national defence can be limited in its meaning to the defence of the United Kingdom.

(2) The principle of "home" or "local," or "domestic" defence, if indiscriminately applied, as it has been by the wholesale creation of forces which cannot be moved from the soil on which they are raised, must produce Imperial weakness, not Imperial strength.

(3) That the United Kingdom is merely the "grand base" of the Empire, that for this reason it must be rendered secure, not only from capture but also from having its communications cut near home. Were the latter contingency to happen it would be helpless as regards itself, while it would cease to be of any value to the rest of the Empire with which it could not then communicate.

(4) That even supposing the United Kingdom secured both against invasion and the interruption of its water roads near home, there yet remained to be effectually guarded against as pressing and as serious a contingency, viz: partial investment by an enemy operating against one or more of its communications, with the other portions of that Empire of which it is but the heart and citadel. For example, an opposing naval force operating with St. Helena as a base, at the crossings of the South Atlantic, would cut the whole of Imperial communications round both Capes, and were the Suez Canal to be blocked at the same time, the whole Empire, except Canada and the West Indies, would be locked out from its grand base, and the United Kingdom would be partially invested.

(5) That we can only secure the Imperial water roads, first, by a firm, strong grasp at all times of the points which command them; second, by fleets adequate to the requirements of keeping free and open the lines between the points.

(6) That those fleets would be paralyzed in their action if the points between which they are to operate are not held by military forces sufficient to render the protection of the sea-going fleets unnecessary; or, if there are not in addition at these points, stores of coal and means of repair adequate to the requirements of the fleets of which they are the base.

The reasons for these conclusions will be found stated in this paper. They have never been disputed, and though they were most unpopular eleven years ago, because we could think of nothing at home but our own personal safety, they are now happily attracting attention. The "genie" of the British Empire is rising out of the "pot" of the United Kingdom in which it was too long confined. May this "spirit" never be asked to go back to show where it came from, and let us hope the time is approaching when Englishmen will cease to talk of their "country," and at all times and under all circumstances act as citizens of a Great United Empire.

On the conclusions referred to are rested the following propositions:—

1. That as the Imperial strategic points had been and are utterly neglected, the colonies should combine and force on the attention of Parliament and Governments