

## Militia and Defence.

ificates, only four availed themselves during the present year of the privilege offered by act of parliament, to ten, to receive instruction here annually.

The critics to whom reference has been made, and others with political views, are ever ready to associate this very regrettable paucity of attendance with wrongly imputed and undefined mismanagement of the college.

But the true causes are probably these:—

The inducements to join the college have been diminished, and neither parliament nor the general public actively evince due appreciation of the essential connection between national safety and higher military education.

The cadets' payments for the college course,—at first \$650—were increased in 1880 to \$1,050, and again in 1888 to \$1,450 at which they now stand.

Concurrently, prizes offered to successful graduates have, practically, been an uniformly broken promise of appointment to the permanent Militia, and the general staff, with four commissions annually presented by Her Majesty, and most liberally supplemented from time to time, by additional appointments to the regular forces.

Up to 1888, thirty-seven extra commissions were allotted by the Imperial Government.

During the following seven years, up to the present time, only two extra commissions were assigned.

During the period that the payments by cadets stood at \$1,050, they had thirty-seven extra Imperial commissions, and were further buoyed up by the expectation that effect would be given to the statutory Order in Council, providing for first appointments to the permanent Militia being reserved for them.

During the later period, while their payments rose to \$1,450—38 per cent higher than formerly,—only two extra commissions have fallen to them, and their former prospect of service in the military force of their country has changed to confirmed despair.

The allotment of Militia commissions, it was perhaps at first thought, would suffice to make the college attractive; but this is never likely to be the case.

As the Militia Service now stands, the normal number of available vacancies in the permanent Militia Corps cannot be more than about two a year, and even if these were invariably assigned to graduates of the Royal Military College, they would prove a wholly insufficient attraction to fill the classes.

One may search in vain in the parliamentary records, to find a clear exposition, one capable of carrying conviction to in-expert common sense, of the necessity for providing an ample reserve of militarily educated men, and for incurring the expense involved in the undertaking.

Scarcely a word has ever been heard in the House in favour of improvement in this respect. Yet column after column may be found in *Hansard* devoted to the disparagement of higher military education, and to throwing contempt on the results of the efforts made to supply the deficiency by this college.

Natural discontent has found a place in the minds of graduates, their friends, and some of the public.

In such circumstances it is the less surprising that puerile, shameful and anonymous attacks have been levelled against the staff and cadets, which have failed to produce disaster within our walls, only because those who labour here are loyal men of honourable instincts, devoted to their duty and sensible of the great importance to Canada of the task entrusted to them.

With probably no more than two exceptions, the government military colleges of the civilized world, outside of Canada, are readily filled to their utmost capacity, due to the circumstance that successful graduation is associated with the winning of an honourable provision for life.

Were Canadian parents persuaded that their sons might be equally fortunate here, there would cease to be paucity of candidature for entrance.

Making every reasonable allowance for the unbounded satisfaction of almost all parents of graduates with the result of the Military College education and training, it is the prospect of Imperial Commissions, and the attractive association and college life