

thing in the spring. Very little extra accommodation would be required, and of the rural battalions, at least half the rank and file can get away at that time.

Canada cannot and will not support a standing army. It now costs as much to maintain two privates in the Schools of Infantry as it does to drill, clothe and instruct a company of forty two men and three officers—and the feeling, I think, throughout the country is: No more reduction in the Militia. Twenty years ago, there were twenty garrison batteries in Ontario—there is one left. It is an easy matter to reduce, but if you want an extra company, or a few spare horses for a battery, you will find that it is a work of years.

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## DRILL AND DISCIPLINE.

LECTURE BY LT.-COL. W. E. O'BRIEN, M.P., CANADIAN MILITARY INSTITUTE, 15TH DECEMBER.

I ENTER upon the subjects which I have ventured to select for consideration this evening with great diffidence. I feel that no officer of the active force who realizes the responsibilities of his position can have failed, whether consciously or not, to have given these subjects much consideration; I feel also, that among those present there are many to whom it is presumptuous in me to offer advice or instruction. No two words are more often in our mouths than Drill and Discipline; yet perhaps we do not always observe the distinction between them on the one hand, and the close connection that there is between them on the other. I think also that in some minds, especially in the minds of men who have not much practical experience, and who have not clearly studied the matter, there is a tendency to undervalue the necessity for discipline, and to imagine that a drilled man is therefore a disciplined man. Now, using the term discipline in the highest and broadest, and least technical sense of which it is capable, I venture to affirm that while some measure of drill is essential for the beginning of discipline, the latter is the higher and more essential qualification for a soldier. Drill, however necessary, is but the handmaid of discipline. Drill is mechanical. Discipline is moral and intellectual, and enlists in its service the highest mental and moral qualities. Drill deals with the hands and feet—with the motions of the body. Discipline relies upon the mind and the heart. For example, drill teaches the sentry how to march upon his beat, how to carry his arms, how to salute, and how to fulfil the various duties of his post. Discipline keeps him at his post even at the peril of his life. It makes him feel his responsibility, and holds him to his duty. It interests him in the discharge of its most minute particulars, and makes him feel a pride in their exact fulfilment. To quote a well known but striking illustration, drill taught the Roman sentry whose remains were found in Pompeii the mechanical duties of his post, but discipline kept him there, when others fled for their lives, till he was smothered in the falling ashes which buried the city. So, in later times, by the means of drill the commander of the troops on board the Birkenhead mustered his men upon the deck of the sinking vessel, but it was by force of discipline that the instinct of self preservation was overcome, and those men, nothing but common British soldiers, gave an example of heroism which shall never be forgotten. And later still, by means of drill, a British force was paraded on the banks of the Nile, hot, weary, hungry, exhausted with the fatigue of marching and fighting, and the reaction which follows upon such work as they had just accomplished, parched with thirst and within a few yards of the cool flowing river. But discipline retained them in their ranks, till, quietly and orderly, man by

man, company by company, the word was given for them to step down and drink; and not till that word was given did a man leave his place. It will be observed that in these cases, as in many more which could be cited, we have the controlling and ennobling effect of discipline unaided by excitement or enthusiasm, such as would be caused by fighting, or vigorous action of any kind, and therefore the highest proof of its power and influence. In action, however, discipline has equally its part to play, and its duties to perform. It enforces patience under suffering, combines coolness and intelligence with courage and daring, teaches the soldier confidence in himself and his comrades, keeps his mental balance midst excitement and confusion, so that he knows when to strike, and when to forbear—in short, makes him such a man that though he may be defeated, he will never be disgraced. Proofs of this lie thickly scattered throughout military history. It was more than drill and physical courage which turned the doubtful combat at Marston Moor into a decisive victory for the Roundheads. It was the highest discipline which sustained the British squares during weary hours of waiting at Waterloo, and enabled them to hold their ground till the moment for action arrived. It was discipline, as well as drill and bravery, which triumphed in the bloody combats at Albuera, Benaco, Fuentes D'Onoro, and elsewhere in the Peninsula, where every quality of endurance and fortitude, as well as desperate courage, were successively brought into play. The converse of my proposition is easily established, and instances will readily occur to every reader of history in which the want, or failure, of discipline has rendered fruitless the efforts of men skilled in arms and full of courage.

Another distinction between drill and discipline exists in this: systems of drill are constantly changing; the principles of discipline are immutable. The men who fought in the Macedonian phalanx, the Roman legionaries, the men-at-arms of the middle ages, the infantry trained by Monk and Leslie, and other officers who had learned the art of war in the Low Countries, the great battlefield and military school of Europe, the soldiers of the Great Frederick, of Napoleon and of Wellington, had each and all their systems of drill, as widely differing as the weapons they carried. But the same principles of discipline applied to all and will continue to apply throughout till war shall be no more. There is one system of drill for the infantry, another for the cavalry and a third for the artillery, but the same discipline for all. Yesterday close order was the rule—to-day all attacks are made in loose or open formation. Movements which were deemed essential a year ago are now expunged from the red book as valueless or obsolete. Still there is no change in the rules of discipline. I may, however, remark that, as the present mode of attack in loose formation, and the system of firing suitable to it, require the exercise of greater individual intelligence and independence of action on the part of the soldier, and therefore more careful training in drill, so a higher degree of discipline is necessary than when men fought shoulder to shoulder, and felt the moral support of close contact with their comrades. I say, advisedly, more careful training in drill, because I am aware that there exists in the minds of some the idea that skirmishing drill is something easily learned, and that the preliminary teaching upon which so much stress is placed is no longer necessary. It is true that precision of step in wheeling and marching is not so much as formerly a means of displaying the high training of the soldier, but I need scarcely tell any one here that we might as well expect one who has only learned the alphabet to read at sight as an undrilled man to make a good skirmisher.

In the foregoing remarks I have endeavoured to point out the distinctions between drill and discipline, the one being mechanical and changing with the differing conditions of warfare—the other being mental and moral, and based