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Note and Comment.

We commend to the attention of Canadian artillerymen the editorial comments of the *Army and Navy Gazette*, reproduced in this issue, on the recent artillery practice camp at Okehampton. Some exceedingly useful lessons appear to have been learned there, and the practice must have been very interesting to the participants.

A refutation, if any were needed, of the cry sometimes heard of scarcity of work in the Dominion, is afforded by the state of affairs in the permanent batteries of artillery at present. Recruits of a desirable class are not over plentiful even in Eastern Canada; and it is with considerable trouble that the ranks of C Battery, British Columbia, are kept up to anything near the authorized strength. The number will be reduced to one-fourth of the strength shortly, by the expiration of a three-years' term of enlistment, the high wages of the Pacific coast tempting the men away. To fill the vacancies drafts are to be made on the batteries at Kingston and Quebec, and as an extra allowance of ten cents per day is paid not a few of the enlisted men there are glad of the opportunity to make the trans-continental trip at the public expense.

Another tribute to the excellence of Canadian horses for army purposes appears in the last number of the *Army and Navy Gazette* to hand. A critical correspondent, writing of the recent cavalry manœuvres, pays special attention to the horses of the Household Cavalry, and having mentioned that one of the admirably adapted machine-gun horses was Canadian bred, he continues: "If this is a fair specimen they are of excellent quality."

The Royal Military College, now well on the way with the present course, has seventy-one cadets in attendance, rather less than the average but more than enough for the present accommodation of the building. The new wing for which money was voted last session will make it possible to admit many more cadets, and thus increase the usefulness of the institution without adding to the expense, as the cadets' fees pay for their maintenance, and the present teaching staff could instruct larger classes. The staff, it may be mentioned, consists of the Commandant, the Adjutant, three military professors, two instructors and two assistant

instructors, besides six civil professors and a subordinate staff of seven non-commissioned officers. A civilian has this year been engaged as Professor of Mathematics, taking the place of an officer who last year was at the disadvantage of having military duties to perform in addition to his teaching.

Military circles in Montreal are stirred up at present over an elaborate banquet which the officers of the 5th and 6th districts are about to give to the head of the Militia Department, Sir Adolphe Caron, who should feel flattered at this spontaneous testimony to the popularity he enjoys in this important centre. The banquet is to take place at the St. Lawrence Hall on the 20th of the present month, and it is expected to be one of the most brilliant events held in Montreal for a long time. It is expected that about 150 officers will attend. Everything tending to give the coming demonstration a political colour has been rigidly excluded from the programme. The chairman will be Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D.A.G.; and Major Radiger, of the Victoria Rifles, is secretary of the committee.

Sir Adolphe Caron is about to spend a few days in Toronto, whither he goes on Saturday evening, accompanied by Lady and Miss Caron. The Minister has designed to arrive in Toronto on Sunday morning, so that he may attend the church parade of the Royal Grenadiers. On Monday morning he will be at the service of the civic authorities in reference to the Garrison common matter and in the afternoon will be present at the review of the public school corps in celebration of the anniversary of the battle of Queenston Heights. The same evening he will attend by invitation the National Club reception at which Principal Grant has consented to deliver an address on "Our National Position and Aims." This season has been one of exceptional activity with the militia in all parts of the country, and the Minister having prominently interested himself in the various schemes devised to further the training of the force is reaping a deserved reward in the hearty greetings meeting him everywhere.

The *Canadian Journal of Fabrics* of a recent date contains the following complimentary notice of John Martin & Co.'s noted military outfitting establishment:—"The picked men of the Montreal fire brigade, numbering fourteen, who have been making a record for themselves at recent competitions, have received new shirts from John Martin & Co., St. Paul street. They are made of navy blue cloth, of fine texture, and have on the front a shield, on which is worked the monogram M. F. B., in red, white and blue letters. The men have thanked Messrs. Martin & Co. for the excellence and cheapness of the work." The readers of the MILITIA GAZETTE, to all of whom the above firm's name must be familiar, will be interested in the fact that a large tailoring establishment has recently been added to their equipment, and they are now in a position to advantageously compete for the supply of all classes of military outfitting.

At the conclusion of the recent manœuvres near Berdeaux Gen Ferron, commander of the 18th Corps of the French Army, issued an order of the day in which he says that the use of smokeless powder will make no change in defensive tactics, but will render offensive tactics more difficult. It is therefore imperative that officers display great intelligence in choosing positions for an attack.