

THE CANADIAN MILITIA GAZETTE

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addition, the officers now abroad as attaches to American Legations and on special duty may be regarded as indirectly connected with the bureau, as the results of their labours are essential to its growth and usefulness. They have furnished information of a highly important character upon all subjects of military interest. Much of this was not hitherto attainable, and could not have been procured by other methods. The list of attaches has just been further increased by the assignment of Lieut. Henry T. Allen, 2nd Cavalry, recently relieved from West Point, to the U. S. Legation at St. Petersburg, and Lieut. S. C. Mills, 12th Infantry, who is now abroad on leave of absence, to the U. S. Legation in Copenhagen. Lieut. Luigi Lomia, 5th Artillery, has also been ordered abroad on a roving mission through Italy and Switzerland for the collection of military data. Lieuts. Allen and Lomia are fully conversant with the languages of the countries they are to visit.

Topics of the Week.

Time and again we have pointed out that our citizen soldiers, who give so much time to the service of a community giving in return very little more substantial than the applause on field days, may find adequate compensation in the physical and mental improvement resulting from the military exercise. This feature, too often lost sight of, is thus well put, editorially, in a recent issue of the *Kingston News*: "Military drill may be made an important means of maintaining the bodily health at its highest pitch. As an exercise, it is the product of centuries of evolution in which the better features were retained and the worse eliminated until to-day there is no course of physical training better adapted to produce an all-round development of the human machine. It is, therefore, peculiarly suitable to those who have not yet completed their growth, and we are glad to see that so many of our youth have been induced to join the ranks. Military drill fosters the patriotic spirit. Though the chances of the volunteers ever being needed for the ostensible purpose of their organisation—the defence of their country—are very slim, the mere fact of being enrolled for that ostensible purpose under the glorious old flag of England causes them to think what that flag and that country have done in the past for the civilization of mankind. Military exercise inculcates habits of neatness in personal appearance, punctuality and obedience. In company drill the volunteer for the first time, perhaps, learns how important it is for a body of men seeking to accomplish any object to be animated by a common purpose, an observation which will stand him in good stead in after life."

There is in connection with the United States military service a bureau of military information, which for several years existed practically in name only, but has gradually expanded until now it may be said to have become a permanent branch of the Adjutant-General's Office, and a most important feature thereof. There are at present three officers attached to the new bureau, in addition to the small corps of clerks. In

The Imperial military authorities are devoting considerable attention to the question of providing a serviceable head dress to replace the present helmet, worn by all the line regiment but the Fusiliers. A new pattern head-dress to take the place of the present helmet for rifle battalions has been finally approved by the military authorities, and now awaits the final sanction of the Secretary of State. The new cap is built on the same lines as the rifle service cap with the exception that it is a little higher than the latter, and is furnished with a short plume in front, with the badge on the side. It is made of Astrachan for the officers, and of lambswool for the men. The cap is quite soft and pliable, and can be stowed away in a pocket. It has met with the approval of all ranks as being the most useful and practical head-dress introduced of late years into the army. There has always been a great objection to the present helmet, and it is thought that the issue of the new rifle cap may lead to the speedy withdrawal of the former throughout all branches of the service.

The latest proposed extension of the military training system is one advocated by the *Toronto Mail*, which would form into cadet battalions the "hoodlums" or unkempt urchins of the streets, often mischievous and even vicious only because they have never been taught how to practise innocent recreative pursuits. In a second article on the subject the *Mail* announces with satisfaction that a practical response is likely to be made to the suggestions previously thrown out, and that with the opening of spring a movement of the kind indicated may be started. "In a work of this sort," says our contemporary, "personal endeavour and enthusiasm are more requisite than money. Funds, of course, will be wanted, but the opening that exists is chiefly for some of our young men of brains and ability, who would find in the carrying to a successful issue of an undertaking of this kind a nobler amusement than the following out of mere personal gratifications." For example, the *Mail* cites the Royal Naval Artillery Volunteers, enrolled from the street youths of Liverpool through the enterprise of a few influential business men, and now zealously proceeding with their training.