

occupied two days for its course, the second section one day, and the third spent only one day in going to Credit Ranges by rail, firing its course, and marching back to Stanley Barracks. The section's performance on a good physical test was very creditable. By this we see that of 365 days one-third of the company had two day's practice, and two-thirds of the company one day's practice in perhaps the most indispensable part of a soldier's education.

There is a lack of interest among the men in the results of the practice; but as there is little remuneration for good shooting this is not to be wondered at. There is, it is true, the honor of gaining the company's guns or the cotton guns. The Government is put to no expense for these badges of merit. The canteen fund supplies them, and to show the lack of interest in their distribution I may state that, though the course was completed last August, it is not known yet who are entitled to wear them. The Government takes no interest in and offers no inducement whatever for good shooting in the Permanent Corps. Ought not this state of things to be altered? It is of the highest importance that the soldier should be thoroughly trained in the use of his rifle, so trained that even bad shots may by practice become useful contributors to an enemy's mortality bill. And to do this more ammunition is needed, and more competition to excite interest among the men. If the number of rounds were doubled something would be done, and were the Government to offer, say \$10 for company shot, and \$5 to a percentage of marksmen, there would be stiff competition. Little apathy would be shown then. These changes would not cost more than \$1,000, a small sum to balance against increased effort for proficiency. If the figures of merit of the various schools were published, esprit d'ecole would be stimulated. I hope this last suggestion would not lead to the making of any of those abnormal scores which have made the League famous. And if the marksmen's names were placed in Regimental orders, a distinction would be conferred on the cross-guns, which would help to lift them from their present limbo of indifference. I hope the general will glance at this branch of military training and bid the soldiers shoot."

Yours truly

"MARTINI-METFORD."

In Favor of Ceremony.

To the Editor Canadian Military Gazette.

In general orders for the Canadian Militia of January 31, 1894, the following paragraph appears: "Ceremonial" will not be included in the training of the Canadian Militia." Now sir, this order, if carried out, will take away what little interest is now shown by the civilian portion of our people. The fathers, mothers, uncles, aunts, sweethearts, and friends generally of our rural force, have always looked forward to Dominion day as a special holiday, and gathered at the camp grounds in hundreds (many driving twenty-five or thirty miles) to witness at least a march past and afterwards a visit among the boys in red. This created an outside interest in our volunteers, which greatly benefited the force and helped to keep the ranks fairly filled. Two years ago at some, if not all, of the camps crowds of people attended, on Dominion day expecting to see some kind of a military pageant, as that day called for something beyond the common routine, instead of which they were treated to the uninspiring sight of a brigade broken up into small fragments performing the interestingly intricate movements of squad drill. I can assure you, Mr. Editor, that the comments of the people, especially of those who had driven many miles through heat and dust, to show their appreciation of our volunteers and the day they were supposed to celebrate, were far from complimentary to

those who, in their wisdom, saw fit to ignore our national holiday for the first time since our new birth. Why not permit the afternoon before Dominion day, if no more time could be spared, to the Battalion learning the march-past and one or two other movements, and if the force is considered incapable of firing a feu de joie, let at least three cheers be given for the day and our Queen. The lack of interest shown last year by the public in visiting the camps in comparison to former years will no doubt keep steadily on the wane; unless some more interesting sight is adopted than squad and company drill. It should be borne in mind that it is this very public that furnish the material for our ranks, and are therefore worthy of some consideration.

CAMBRIDGE.

The Egyptian Army.

It cannot be known too widely just now what British Officers have done for the Egyptian Army. An article in the St. James's Gazette, evidently written by one who has a thorough acquaintance with facts, has lately put the matter so clearly and concisely that we reproduce it for the benefit of those who may not have read it in the columns of our excellent contemporary.

"All who know what the Egyptian Army was when Sir Evelyn Wood undertook to weld its disbanded and demoralised units together eleven years ago, and what it is now, will probably agree with Mr. Mimer's estimate of the work done by British officers in the Khedive's service as 'the most conspicuous success in the whole of our labour for the reorganisation of Egypt.'"

Sir Evelyn did not remain long enough in command of the new army to see all his plans for its efficiency brought to perfection; but he laid the basis upon which every military reform has since then been built up, and he handed over the task to officers so deeply imbued with his ideas that the Egyptian Army to-day is in all essentials the development of his original conception. It was he who, after the drafts had been got together from various provinces to form a certain number of battalions, squadrons, and batteries, formulated the recruiting system whereby which all the cruel methods invented by Mehmet Ali, and fostered by Ismail, for keeping the ranks of their aggressive armies full, were swept away. Thus by one measure alone he relieved the fellahs of a burden which had until then been so terrible that a villager, when once drafted into the army, was looked upon as doomed never to return, and bodily mutilation was resorted to by thousands who preferred self-torture to military service. Mothers were known to put out the eyes of their sons in hope that they might thus escape the cruel conscription, until Mehmet Ali, in his grim way, took to forming one-eyed corps and sending them off to the Soudan.

Naturally the fellahs were slow to appreciate the change that had been brought under Sir Evelyn Wood's administration. But the absolute impartiality with which levies began to be drawn from each district; the removal of petty oppressions which Mudirs and Vahkis had previously inflicted to serve their own needs; the system of granting leave after a stipulated term with the colours; and, above all, the regularity of pay which enabled a soldier to send money to his family; destroyed gradually but surely all the prejudices that had existed formerly against service in the army. To compensate for waste in the full strength

of 12,000 men, no more than 1,200 or 1,500 conscripts are required annually. Youths are liable to conscription at the age of nineteen, but they are seldom called up for service until their twenty-third year. Married men are not exempt. This would be almost impossible in a community where early marriages are a rule. A married man who is drawn for service may buy himself out before joining the colours, if he has sufficient means. Failing this, he must quit wife and family, as there is no provision for a "married establishment" in the Egyptian military system. He has, however, no longer the dread of lifelong service before him. After four years with the colours he enters the police, where he receives better pay and has more opportunity of leading a domestic life until the expiration of another four years, when, with money in his pocket, he joins the reserve and becomes practically a free man, for the reserves are seldom called out. A waldani, or only son and breadwinner, is absolutely exempt from military service. A few years after the first recruiting it was discovered that several hundreds of these had been wrongfully enlisted. They were accordingly sent back to their villages and this act of unfamiliar justice produced an excellent effect. This was the system founded by Sir Evelyn Wood and though the term of compulsory service with the colours had since been increased to six years, there is now no sign of disinclination for a soldier's life among the fellahs. In fact, as Major Wingate was able to write not long ago, "scarcely a day passes but volunteers offer themselves as recruits."

The organisation of the Egyptian Army differs from European models only so far as national characteristics demand. Sir Evelyn, who never doubted the possibility of making good soldiers out of the despised fellahs if they were properly commanded, got permission from the Home Government for the appointment of twenty-one officers serving on full pay in the British Army to posts in the Khedive's service. Among the number then selected were Col. (now Gen.) Sir Francis Grenfell, Col. Duncan, R. A., Col. Fraser R. E., Majors Chermiside, Hallam-Parr, HolledSmith, and Watson, Capt. Wodehouse, and Capt. Kitchener, every one of whom gained a reputation for great ability in dealing with native troops. The eight infantry battalions were formed into two brigades—one commanded by Gen. Grenfell, and the other, of which all officers were native Egyptians commanded by Shuhdi Pasha. The artillery under Col. Duncan was exceptionally well officered, and soon became conspicuous for efficiency—thanks to the labours of such energetic battery commanders as Wodehouse, Parsons, Rundle, and Carter. Capt. Kitchener was at first attached to the cavalry, but was given an important command later, when the Soudanese battalions were formed into a brigade under him at Suakim. Of that brigade one regiment raised by Col. Hallam-Parr has gained great distinction in many fights, and all of them will follow wherever their English officers lead.

Sir Evelyn Wood's immediate successor as Sirdar was Sir Francis Grenfell; and that the Egyptian Army lost nothing of its discipline or soldierly aptitude under him was proved in engagement after engagement, when the fellahs' cavalry and camel corps of mounted infantry fought beside British troops with a steadiness not less praiseworthy than the dash of the Soudanese battalions. With native troops aided only at a decisive moment