

ought, to the utmost extent their civilian occupations would allow, be sufficiently trained in time of peace to take their place in the firing line at short notice. The volunteer should be sufficiently trained to be able at short notice to take the field in order to stop or check a landing force, and so give time to put in the field and concentrate a substantial or sufficient part of the defensive forces available in the United Kingdom. In regard to training, the lecturer said the military discipline could not become a habit in a volunteer in the same way that it did in a regular soldier, because the latter was always subject to it and conscious of it; while the volunteer was subjected to it for but a very small part of his life, and was often an independent worker, who was not subject to the orders of any immediate superior, and was accustomed to act only in a manner that commended itself to his individual intelligence; or he was a man who had made his own way, and thought his own opinion at least as good as anybody else's. He must, therefore, be shown that obedience is necessary to the very existence of a military body, and he must be reasoned and expostulated with, and if he could not see the importance of it and submit himself to it, he should be got rid of; but this would not be often necessary if he were properly handled and his officers were fit for their work. Speaking as captain of a company of volunteers, Major Rickards said he thought even though obedience would not become a stereotyped habit with the volunteer as with the regular, the officer could, if he were the right man in the right place, maintain discipline with men tired out with marching and exhausted from want of food. He believed that they would obey, though they might think their captains or superior officers were making blunders. He also believed they would preserve discipline and order, more especially on occasions when, as would be the case if called out for actual service, they would be acting with regulars; and could not fail, in view of the national state of feeling that would exist if invasion were even seriously apprehended—much more so when it was actually taking place—to be thoroughly in earnest. Hardly less important than the thorough efficiency of the officers is that of the non-commissioned officers, who are brought into more immediate contact with the men, and have, of course, not infrequently to supplement a want of knowledge in the men themselves.

The difficulty of getting suitable ranges must increase as the power of modern rifles increases; but everything should be done to encourage position and aiming drill and Morris tube practice. In order to help and encourage volunteers to go to the ranges when they have learnt the preliminary drill as much as possible, the traveling allowance should be so increased as to put all corps on the same footing, and enable every man to

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