

learn. The recommending of loafers for admission to a military school is purely and simple a swindle.

Some months ago we appealed to our readers to send to this office collections of maple leaves to be sent to the Royal Canadian Regiment, now stationed at Deesa, India, for the men to wear in their caps next Dominion Day. There were some replies to our appeal at the time, and we desire all intending contributors to send in their leaves at once, as they have to travel a long distance before Dominion Day.

Among many other letters approving of our little scheme is one from an officer of the Royal Canadians, who writes: "Like very many others, I have read with the deepest interest in the columns of your paper of the patriotic interest taken by Canadians in their corps, the 'Old Hundredth Royal Canadians,' in providing that all ranks of the regiment may wear maple leaves in their helmets regularly every Dominion Day. I can but re-iterate that such interest is very greatly appreciated by all connected with the corps; but I think you will agree that a more lasting and further stride should be taken, which all Canadians would assuredly endorse, and that is that the Royal Canadians should wear on its uniform and appointments, etc., the beaver and maple leaf, and thus commemorate and evermore prominently bring to view, in whatever part of the world its officers and men may chance to serve, its famous and never to be forgotten origin."

Most assuredly we agree with our correspondent, and it must be gratifying to Canadians to find that the present officers of the Royal Canadians are so proud of their regiment. Our correspondent adds: "At present the only badge worn by the regiment on the collar of its uniform is the Prince of Wales' plume. It is quite superfluous for me to say that the introduction of such unique and most distinctive badges as the beaver and maple leaf, in addition to the Prince of Wales' plume, would be hailed with enthusiasm and more than proudly worn by all ranks of the Royal Canadians."

Now here is a chance for the Dominion House of Parliament now in session assembled to show that Canada still takes an interest in its own regiment in the Imperial service. It

may surprise many who are interested in the regiment to hear that the beaver is not worn as a badge, nor is it borne on the regimental colors at present. The maple leaf is worn in combination with the Prince of Wales' plume in the centre of the helmet plates, but it is so small as to be practically invisible. It is also worn on the sword-belt clasps of the officers, but as it is interwoven with a laurel wreath the maple leaves are greatly hidden. It is also borne on the colors of the regiment. The Prince of Wales' plume is worn and borne on everything.

Why should not Canada ask that her historic badges be worn once and for all on the uniforms of the regiment she raised and equipped, and that the beaver be also borne on the colors? In order to make the Canadian badges more distinctive they should be arranged thus:—The beaver and maple leaf should be worn on the collars of the uniforms of all ranks in the place of the Prince of Wales' plume; the beaver should be borne on the regimental colors in addition to the Prince of Wales' plume and the maple leaf.

The changes would do good in many ways. They would link up afresh the regiment with Canada more closely after all these years; they would make the Royal Canadians more distinctive than ever as the only corps in the whole British army bearing colonial badges and a colonial title; and above all, they would tend to foster a soldierly bond between the regular regiment and the Canadian militia. The move in the matter to be at all powerful and effective must emanate from Canada. We start the ball rolling, who will help it along?

There have been a few straggling questions bearing upon the militia brought up in the Dominion House so far this season, but they have not been productive of much good result. The trouble is that the service members and other honorable gentlemen interested in the welfare of the militia make no serious attempt to act in concert and to carry out a general scheme of militia improvement or re-organization. They have their own ideas and hobbies, and hammer away at those, and the government simply ignores them, and the policy of throwing public money away goes bravely on. It is a pity that the friends of the militia at Ottawa do not follow the

example of the service members in the Imperial House of Commons, and hold a caucus to determine upon some general scheme of service reform. Were the friends of the militia force in both houses at Ottawa to unite in some such way as this they would at once make themselves felt, and the militia force would receive in Parliament and at the Privy Council table the consideration it stands so dreadfully in need of.

The absurdities of the present system of selecting officers for the permanent corps and schools of military instruction by favoritism are constantly bobbing up serenely. Here is one of the latest called to the attention of the writer of this column:—There are two officers of permanent corps at Kingston at present qualifying for the commissions which they have held for several years, and during which time they have been supposed to instruct attached officers in the very subjects which they are trying to master the rudiments of at Kingston.

Although the government does not appear to be manifesting any unseemly haste in importing the promised Martini-Metford rifles for the re-arming of the militia, it would appear to be a reasonably sure thing that the re-arming of the force has been decided upon. So far so good; but the political heads of the department must not flatter themselves with the mistaken idea that modern rifles are all that is needed to put the militia force on a satisfactory footing so far as equipment is concerned. An almost complete outfit of accoutrements for the force is as necessary as new rifles. Apart from the permanent corps, there is not a regiment in Canada which could keep the field for three days. A fair proportion of the waist belts are in good order, thanks to the care of the militiamen themselves, but that is really about all that the militia corps have in the way of accoutrements that can be depended upon.

Some of the crack city regiments have provided water bottles and overcoat straps at their own expense, and a few have been fortunate enough to wheedle a complete equipment of haversacks out of the departmental stores. There are a few old canvas knapsacks knocking about in some of the armories, but their day of usefulness was gone before they were dis-