

THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA.

THE habitual development, encouragement, and distribution throughout the Dominion, of minds trained in intelligent military reflection and study is very important to Canada as a nation.

The supreme trial through which China is now passing is clearly due to the short-sighted contempt in which her upper classes hold those of the military profession, and to her neglect of higher military education. With a population of over 360 millions, and one and a-half millions of square miles of richly-productive territory, she has for many ages had at her disposal well nigh unlimited command of wealth, men, and material.

Yet, she is now all but at the mercy of Japan, which has but a tenth of her population and territory, and is at her wits' end to secure the hired services of militarily-educated foreigners of any grade, from private to commander-in-chief, from able-bodied seaman to admiral.

Japan, with an army of only 78 thousand twenty years ago, and 18 war vessels, has given unremitting attention to progress in military matters.

But a year or two ago China, with nearly 2,000,000 enrolled men, and an army of trained irregular levies, had better founded reason for neglecting energetic military education than Canada has to-day.

Formal, full, and effective recognition of the vital national interests involved in the purposes for which the Royal Military College has been established, should not be longer withheld.

If encouragement, conducive to increasing the number of students resorting to the college, can be accorded only at the cost of personal inconvenience and political sacrifice, patriotism demands that the inconvenience shall be suffered, and the sacrifice made.

With the object of directing public attention to Canada's only school of higher military education, we present the following papers to our readers :—

THE RELATION OF THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE TO THE EFFICIENCY OF THE MILITARY FORCES OF CANADA.

By Lieut.-Col. W. H. Cotton, R.C.A., D A G.

The Royal Military College having on several occasions been a subject of much controversy and crude criticism, it may not be out of place, and certainly will be of interest to the public generally, if a resumé of its objects and work is brought to more prominent notice.

The R. M. C. was opened in 1876, and the first graduating class passed out in 1880. The only restrictions to entrance are, that the candidates must be British subjects, between the ages of fifteen and eighteen, and that for three years preceding the examination they or their parents have resided in Canada.

Its object, defined by the Act of Parliament establishing it, is for the imparting of an education in such military subjects as fortification, tactics, and military engineering, embracing, too, a general, scientific knowledge in such studies as are now necessary to a modern education, as well as to a thorough knowledge of the military profession. Differing from the English Military Colleges, from those on the continent of Europe, and from West Point in the United States, where the graduates are all expected to adopt and immediately follow the profession of arms, the R.M.C. has steadily, from the first, had in view a good military education, calculated to improve the whole martial spirit of the country, as these young men take their places as citizens of Canada.