

battalion about twelve days' drill annually and here we have the bulk of soldiering in Canada. The experiences met with at camp are in the main pleasant, although some persons of a hypochondriac disposition are sometimes heard to complain if their tents leak on a rainy night or if any similar occurrence transpires.

The drill our volunteers get at these camps is decidedly not such as can give them any adequate idea of actual warfare. For the last few years the programme for the twelve days has been about as follows: In the mornings about three hours daily squad and company drill; and in the afternoons this procedure was duplicated on some days while on others the afternoon was taken up with battalion or brigade drill. Then each company takes its turn at providing the brigade guard and going on picquet duty; but as this is only an institution to maintain order in the camp it gives very little knowledge of the method of such procedure in time of war. Each company has one day rifle shooting; which is, of course, all the time that can be spared for that occupation.

This, I think, will be found to be a fair statement of the work done at these camps and it will at once be seen that though there are many deficiencies that can not be remedied without a great expenditure of the public revenues, that there are other things that can easily be altered for the better without much increase of expense. It will be seen from the above programme that the bulk of the drill done at camp is squad and company drill. Now I have always contended that drill of this kind can and ought to be done at company headquarters thus sparing the unnecessary expense of bringing the companies to the district drill-grounds.

In the modicum of battalion and brigade drill actually done the men do not become sufficiently familiar with the different formations to ensure regularity even in the simplest movements. I have thought when watching the confusion in the performance of a simple brigade movement such as wheeling in echelon of battalions or the simpler wheeling of a battalion in column how quickly the interest of a few flying bullets would render these battalions so many mobs almost beyond the control of their officers. The drill we must have at our annual camps, if our militia is in any way to merit the name of "army" is not squad and company drill. What we want is a perfect training in battalion and brigade movements and some solid instruction in attack and defense, fire-discipline, advanced and rear guards, outpost and picquet duties together with such drill as will give us a general knowledge of the whole range of tactics and evolution. This, it seems to me, we might have without much additional expense.

It is true that our equipment is deficient and must be improved in certain respects before these reforms can take effect. Each battalion must be provided with and instructed in the use of such equipment as would be necessary in an actual engagement. One of the most important things in modern battles between civilized nations is to keep the firing-line well supplied with ammunition. The suc-