

and in the pursuit of Big Bear. That the 100th Royal Canadians is still remembered with something like family ties in Canada, witness the cordial invitation of the officers of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Infantry to the officers of the Leinster Regiment to become, or rather consider themselves permanent honorary members of their several messes. This good feeling is also extending, for very recently the officers and sergeants of the 2nd Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto have sent a similar invitation to the officers and sergeants of the Leinster respectively. It is gratifying to read the comments of the press in Canada and in this country on this action of our brethren in arms of the Canadian forces. Now, Sir, is the opportunity of Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Chamberlin to strengthen and bind for ever the ties of National brotherhood between Great Britain and her colonies.

A valued correspondent in the Imperial service suggests that the old 100th might be made the basis for the organization of a new Canadian regiment of four battalions in the Imperial service. He suggests that it be called the Royal Canadian Regiment with one battalion each at Halifax, N. S., Esquimaux, B. C., Bermuda and England, with the depot, say at Montreal or Kingston, and each battalion to remain no longer than three years in any one station.

It will be noticed with surprise and regret that the last appointment to the Royal Regiment of Canadian Infantry was a provisional one, signifying that the appointee was not qualified for the appointment. With the number of smart graduates of the Royal Military College and qualified officers of the active militia available for this post, we cannot but express surprise at the action of the militia department, especially after the outcry which has been made against these scandalous political influence appointments. And we hear that another similar appointment is in contemplation, one which was blocked before, and it is to be sincerely hoped, will be again. "Take steps to make the militia the great end, and put down all political and private influences" was the advice given by Major General Gascoigne to the officers of the Montreal militia. We would very respectfully like to commend his words to the consideration of the government.

The newspapers are taking up the singular persistence of the government in ignoring the Royal Military College graduates in making appointments to the per-

manent corps. A correspondent of the *Kingston News* took exception to a statement made at the limestone city that the Provincial Government was not doing its duty by the graduates of the college. He wrote :

"The Imperial Government gives at least four commissions in the Imperial Army each year to the graduates of the College, and also offers other commissions to volunteer officers who pass a qualifying examination. All this is a great advantage to young Canadians, many of whom have gone out and made the name of Canadians honored and respected in all parts of the world, by their honest and good work. Does the Dominion Government offer similar advantages to the graduate? Not at all. It takes all that it can get, and gives as little as possible. Let it also first do what it ought to do, and set apart a certain number of appointments in the permanent corps, and Civil Service, to be given to the R. M. C. graduates every year, and then you might with some face ask the Provinces to do something to keep the young men at home. I often think that if the Imperial authorities knew how very little is done here for our graduates, they would scarcely continue to be as liberal. They evidently value our men much more than our Government apparently does, and are glad to have their services."

According to the Broad Arrow the problem connected with the Lee-Metford bullet has yet to be solved. The leaden pellet encased in its metal cover gives excellent results on the range, but it is so delicately balanced that any tampering with it by firing off the point or giving it a leaden "nose" destroys its ranging power and lessens its penetration at long distances. Each of these devices makes it effective at short ranges, as the bullet breaks up and it will drop a man or an animal in its track. It is now suggested that the British soldier should have his magazine attachment loaded with the lead-pointed bullet only. He could be given, say, three such magazines to be carried in one pouch, separate from the rest of his ammunition. The instant that it became necessary to employ rapid concentrated fire, a simple order would be required to ensure the use of the more destructive bullet. Confidence in the Lee Metford would be restored, as the men in the ranks would realise that the shorter the range the greater would be the stopping power of the bullet. There would be no risk of the ammunition becoming mixed, as the loaded magazines, once served out at the beginning of a campaign, would remain always with the rank-and-file. There replenishment would be an

easy matter after an action in which they had been resorted to.

It is to be sincerely hoped that the promised government measure will provide for the adequate training of the rural militia. The present system of embodying the rural corps for ten days camp is simply throwing money away to no purpose. It should be three weeks camp or nothing, and besides the officers and non-commissioned officers should be given a chance to learn their duties and to brush up a bit of drill at classes held during the winter at the different regimental headquarters. It is about time that the training of the rural corps ceased to be a farce.

What about the explosive for the new rifle? It is hardly possible to believe that there is any truth in the statement that the government has placed a large order for cordite, after the reports which have been published broadcast as to the extreme sensitiveness of cordite to changes of atmosphere, and as to the wear and tear of the explosive on the rifle. We see it stated that after firing fifty shots in rapid succession the barrel becomes so hot that the sights melt and drop off, a defect it is said to be impossible to remedy so long as tri-nitro cellulose and nitro-glycerine form the base of the explosive compound. It is also announced that the enormous heat has the disadvantage of causing the greatest amount of wear and tear on the rifling of the gun, so much so that the maximum life of the magazine rifle when used with cordite is admitted to be only 3,000 rounds. We trust that the Quartermaster-General will be instructed to make a personal, impartial investigation of the explosive question while in England. There is no use having the best rifle in the world if we have not got the right ammunition for it.

Beloved by the force at large and with a consciousness of ever having done his duty, that gallant old soldier, and courteous gentleman, Colonel Walker Powell, Adjutant-General of the Canadian Militia, goes into retirement at last. "The Father of the Canadian Militia," he was popularly called, and truly he has been a military parent and guide to many an officer who has