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SOLDIERING A PROFESSION.

All officers of the Permanent Force, who have an interest in their profession, and we believe that the majority have such an interest, must feel that their zeal and energy often receive severe checks, from causes over which, apparently, no one has any control. No opportunity, no genuine responsibility comes as a soldier's blessing upon them. The tame, common round of duties, orderly room, troop battery or company drill, courts martial, barrack inspections, etc., are the varied diet on which they feed and on which they are permitted to blunt themselves or to throw up the sponge in despair. Perhaps it may be said, they do not take themselves seriously. As permanent troops (which means regular troops under another name) under pay for continuous service, they are *forced* to take themselves seriously; so much so that unless the Government devises some scheme of pension for retirement, junior regimental lieutenants of 20 years standing will presently become quite common!

As this paper is edited on behalf of and for the Permanent Force, we may perhaps be permitted to quote the following extract from a recent speech of Lord Wolseley. If his view of soldiering, as a profession, were applied to the Permanent Force by the Government in a serious manner, then the officers, N. C. officers and men might feel that zeal, energy and a conscientious sticking to even dull barrack monotony might bring its proper reward, as it certainly would do in all other professions or mercantile pursuits.

Lord Wolseley says:—

“ It will be my great object to make Her Majesty's army a real fighting machine, ready to be used for whatever purpose the