

College; and fourth, camps of instructions or annual drill.

The provisional school and the Royal Military College are only for officers, and the Royal school of military instruction and the annual camps are for non-commissioned officers and men. In regard to the permanent force, I think it is well understood without my explaining it, more than to say that it is a force that is enrolled and kept under military regulations just as if it were composed of so many regular soldiers; but the instructive feature of the force is very important.

Now, with your permission, I will read what the Major General says about that force, and his recommendations and suggestions in connection with it:

In my report for the year 1900, I adverted to the difficulties against which the units of the permanent forces had to contend by reason of the number of officers, non-commissioned officers and men on service with the contingents in South Africa. This year I have had the opportunity of seeing them under normal condition, and it gives me great pleasure to be able to report that the general result of my inspections was very satisfactory as regards their discipline, training, conduct and administration, but I regret to say that all branches are considerably below their established strength, so much so indeed that I cannot consider them thoroughly efficient, even for instructional purposes. The reason why difficulty is experienced in obtaining recruits will probably be found in the great commercial and agricultural prosperity of the Dominion and the consequent demand for civil labour at a high rate of wages. It is also a matter of common notoriety in the military service that the smaller the establishment the harder it is to maintain it at full strength.

In my opinion the most effectual measure for maintaining the establishment of the permanent units will be a readjustment of the rates of pay so as to bring the emoluments of the soldier, inclusive of his rations, clothing, medical attendance and quarters, more on a level with the wages he could earn in civil employment. The present rate of daily pay is 40 cents, or 10 cents less than is paid to militiamen for annual training and to men serving in the 3rd (S.S.) battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment at Halifax, N.S., and to this I think may be attributed the desertions that usually occur in the early summer, when the demand for labour is on the increase. In so small a force there is no use for men of inferior stamp. We need the very best, and there appears no reason why the militia should not succeed equally with the North-west mounted police if we compete in the labour market on fairly even terms.

The object for which the permanent force is maintained is primarily to furnish schools of instruction in which officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the active militia can not only be trained in drill, tactics and discipline more fully and practically than with their own units, but also learn the interior administration and the routine of duties pertaining to their respective arms of the service. They should also be able to acquire the habits and demeanour of officers and soldiers, in order that they may serve as models for the corps to which they belong. To this end all ranks of the per-

manent corps exert themselves and do their utmost to carry out their important duties as far as circumstances will permit, the classes receiving very careful instruction.

Then follow recommendations for the filling up and increase of the permanent troops, concluding as follows:

The foregoing recommendations would entail an increase to the permanent force of about 18 officers and 462 'other ranks,' and consequently clause 28 of the Militia Act would require to be amended so as to provide for the maintenance of permanent troops not exceeding 1,500 men; but I submit that the enormous increase in the wealth and responsibilities of the Dominion since the Act was passed more than warrant such an increase. In support of these recommendations I would urge that if they are adopted, the country would possess a force of highly trained troops, not only efficient for the purpose for which it is primarily maintained, but also effective in the event of war or internal disturbance, which at the existing establishments it cannot possibly be. If, therefore, it be impracticable to accept this increase in its entirety, I yet hope that the additional 'rank and file' may be granted as a first step towards placing our permanent troops on a more satisfactory basis.

Then he speaks of the provisional schools. I will not trouble the House by reading it, because I can explain it more shortly, and if I went on to read all these extracts, much as I would like to put them on 'Hansard,' it would consume too much time. He recommends the abolition of the provisional schools, for many reasons, the concluding one of which I will read:

I believe the introduction of the provisional schools has had a prejudicial effect on the standard of efficiency attained by many young militia officers, and that in the best interest of the service it is inexpedient to continue to hold them. With this opinion I feel sure the majority of experienced militia officers will concur.

He gives many other reasons, which can be read by those who wish to follow the matter up in detail. As to the Royal Military College, he says:

The commandant comments adversely upon the result of the riding instruction, but the conditions are very unfavourable.

He recommends that the riding part of the instruction be abolished, and that the cadets obtain that experience by being attached to the Royal Dragoons at Toronto. Then he goes on—and I wish to call the particular attention of the Minister of Militia to this:

It is a matter for great regret that this admirable institution, established for the express purpose of securing for the Canadian militia a supply of well trained and capable officers, entirely fails to attain this object. What brought about this state of things it is impossible to say, but one thing seems clear, that in the period spent at the college, the students do not imbibe any soldierly ambition or acquire a taste for military employment, and it is sad to see, year after year, young gentlemen who have received such an excellent military education