

be, "Parliament would not accept it." That is none of his business, or any soldiers' business. If he speaks, he should tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. If the Parliament and people of England won't accept truth that is their look out.

It is only possible to have a reserve capable of meeting any continental nation in arms, by passing our reserve through the mill of our national army, a conscripted militia of every able bodied man. The number a maximum the time a minimum consistent with the production of discipline for drill may be learnt at school, our poor little professional army is not a big enough mill to grind up a national reserve, therefore don't sacrifice to the dream of a futile reserve. The gist of the question was put shortly for those who run to read in the last number of the *Canadian Military Review*, under "Our Disasters."

Militia Report.

If brevity be the soul of wit, then there is both wit and wisdom in our General's report. The briefest and most practical yet issued in Canada, let us hope a practical use may be made of it by those who hold the sinews of war "the purse strings." We copy from the excellent résumé of the *Mail* :—

We give a recapitulation of the Major-General's report, and would ask all to read it, even if they do not care to spend sufficient time to peruse the short report which precedes it, and they will see that the first thing asked for is the establishment of Military Schools. And of what would they consist? The General's demands are moderate—a half company of Engineers, a few companies of Infantry, and a few more horses for the Artillery, so that four guns may be horsed and the cavalry taught to ride. Some may say that we already have schools which are opened for a few weeks in each year under the staff officers of certain districts, but these are only of a temporary nature, and are not up to teaching the interior economy and discipline so necessary to the force, and which can only be learned by attendance at a permanent school whereat everything is carried on with a regularity equal to, and in accordance with, the rules of the regular service. Uniformity of system is a very important item when troops are got together in large bodies. Permanent schools would have the effect of establishing this uniformity, and our annual camps would show a marked improvement on their present condition.

It is no secret in the militia that the Major-General found at some of his visits to rural corps officers and non-commissioned officers extremely ignorant of their duties. How could it be otherwise? What chance had they had of learning their duties? It would be remembered how the allowance, and in consequence the amount of drill, has been reduced of late years. Anyone thinking the matter over must come to the conclusion that six days' drill one year, and then an interval of one or more years without drill, gives little or no chance to officers or men learn their duties. It is evident that the Major-General considers that to enable officers and non-commissioned officers to teach their men they must themselves be taught, and that in the absence of the permanent staff of an adjutant, a sergeant-major, and a sergeant to each company, which are allowed to militia regiments in England, permanent schools are essential in Canada, that is supposing always that we wish for as much efficiency as can be obtained by the expenditure of a certain sum of money.

The following are the recommendations previously alluded to :

First—Schools of military instruction on a permanent basis.

Second—Additional expenditure on rural corps in order

to give them instruction in camp for sixteen days, which would cost, it has been estimated, about \$15 per man. The Major-General says : "This is the least time I would recommend, and the Government should decide the number of rural corps they mean to maintain, multiply the same by fifteen, and that will be the cost, or if they decide upon a fixed sum, then divide that by fifteen and the result will show the number of rural corps that I would advise that branch of the force to be restricted to—to attempt to maintain a larger force than the means will allow is, in my opinion, ruin to the force ; it leads to indiscipline and future trouble."

Third—Forts, expenditure on fortifications at Montreal, Quebec, and Toronto.

Fourth—Royal Military College, expenditure for ventilation and additional rooms for professors and cadets, and civil appointments to passed cadets.

Fifth—City corps, expenditure to be the same as for present year.

Sixth—Equipment and dress, the former to be "Oliver's" pattern, the latter modified in the direction of serviceability and economy.

Non-Commissioned Officers.

What a mouthful for a title ! and why give a man a negative title of disability ? A title should be of honor as well as for use. Our term is neither one or the other. Why designate a man by explaining what he is not ? We might as well style our captains "non-field officers." The French call this non-commissioned rank "*sous officier*." Sub-officer might be confused with subaltern, but "*under officer*" would answer all practical purposes, and not be a long negative mouthful. The windiness of military journals that have been blowing hurricanes round the subject of doing something to raise the position and status of our under officer rank might surely have come to the point before this. The continuance of such a title as "non-commissioned officer" could only be tolerated among a people that refuses the decimal system for money, weights and measures, and expects to have armies without serving in one or the other. On ! no, we never mention it—it's name is never heard—"CONSCRIPTION."

—Lieut.-General Sir P. L. Macdougall, in an article to the *Times*, deprecates the idea of promoting officers in the English army by "selection." He strongly advocates qualified seniority, and thinks that the *esprit de corps*, which is now so powerful a factor in the service, would be broken into units were the former system adopted. He says, referring to his work on "Modern Warfare"—"A *bona fide* system of advancement in the army on the ground of merit alone, which shall always insure the selection of the best men, must remain for the present a pleasing dream, and is indeed an impossibility under any human institution."

—The Austrian *Militär Zeitung* publishes the following comments on the recent disaster in the Transvaal—"One would have thought that the practical Briton would have turned to account the proverb that experience teaches wisdom ; but we see them making the old blunder over and over again, in spite of them. . . . If England does not wish to risk the loss of her colonial possessions, she must reorganize her army on the basis of conscription."

"O ! would some power the giddy gite us,
To see oursel's as others see us."

—The Militia Department seeing the force of the General remarks, have increased the Militia vote, for this year by \$61,000 this sum to be expended, in extra drilling the rural battalions.