

officers and men of the unit should take their share in the courses of instruction, and all isolation of officers and men attached for instruction should be most carefully avoided.

7. The thorough adoption of this principle will, I believe, be found the best means of preparing all ranks for their ultimate and most important duty in time of actual service, and that is, with the possible exception of A. and B. Batteries, not to form independent fighting units, nor to become the nuclei of cavalry regiments or infantry battalions, but to furnish officers and non-commissioned officers for the staff of the army which Canada may be able to mobilize.

There will be abundance of room for every trained officer or man that the Permanent Corps can supply—and from no other source can equally efficient soldiers be looked for.

8. Now, with regard to this association itself, and the benefits or otherwise which we may expect to derive from its continuance, in the first place, the feeling of comradeship and *esprit de corps*, cannot, I think, but be helped by the meeting of officers, who can mutually discuss points of interest relative to their corps. The admission of staff officers not belonging to the Permanent Corps will, I hope, tend to dispel the feeling or spirit of exclusiveness, with which I think we are unjustly charged. You will see a notice of motion to this effect which will come up for subsequent discussion.

9. There cannot help but be certain divergence of opinion amongst commandants of the different schools as to the exact lines upon which they are to be run, and whilst recognizing the impossibility of obtaining one exactly uniform system in matters of minor detail, I cannot help thinking that a meeting such as this should enable officers to agree upon what they consider as the result of their experience, should be the general system, and that the General officer commanding the Militia will thus obtain a better insight into the feelings and aspirations of these representative units.

10. Quite apart, however, from the social and other aspects of our annual meeting, I consider that the V.R.I. MAGAZINE, about which so much has been said, and in which so little has been written, has a most important function to fill. Instead of being in competition with other more or less domestic publications, with which, no matter how ably edited, it cannot possibly compete, either in extent of circulation, variety of subjects, and choice of matter, it has, or may have, a peculiar function of its own in which it has no competitor, and in which it will supply a long felt want.