

THE CADET CORPS.

The great problem of economical and thorough colonial defence which has hitherto given so much trouble to Provincial statesmen, must, we believe, sooner or later, find its solution in the introduction of military training into the recognized educational institutions of the country. The advantages of a system of military exercises carried out in every section of the Dominion, would be attended with numerous advantages, not only to the country at large, but to the youth of the land, and would evidently produce a militia force, which for cheapness and efficiency could not possibly be equalled. Every hour devoted to the purposes of military training, throws upon the country a non working and non producing class of men which must be supported by the productive labor of the balance of the population. In the old settled and densely populated countries of Europe the burden of maintaining trained bodies of men for the purposes of war has been for years a continual subject of complaint, and in a newly settled land like Canada, where labor is always in request, and where workmen can command high remuneration, the expense for military organization becomes doubly oppressive. That a large, well disciplined body of men must always be held in readiness by the people of Canada, is what is universally admitted by our people, with the exception of the few Utopian dreamers, who look for a perpetual peace, and the still fewer craven disloyalists who believe in the ultimate absorption of these colonies by the American Republic. Having acknowledged the necessity which exist for the maintenance of a military force in the Provinces, there is nothing left for us to do but to submit to the requirements of the time, and to organize on the most economical system, our defensive forces always bearing in mind that in military matters no real economy can exist without efficiency. The first point aimed at should be to secure the services of the population at that period when they are of least value for other work, if they can then properly receive the education of the soldier. For this we naturally turn to the period of childhood as under all circumstance the youthful portion of the population must be maintained by the adult. Their time is then worth almost nothing, except where it is applied to receiving education. Thanks to the glorious educational establishments which the Government has spread like a network over every section of the land, there need be little extra expense in keeping the juvenile population of the country together for drill, for according to the report of the Superintendent of Education, last year over ninety per cent of the youth of Western Canada was in attendance at some one or other of the educational institutions. The teachers of our public schools are very many of them educated at the public schools for the position of instruc-

tor, and of late every facility has been afforded them to fit themselves for imparting military instruction to their scholars, and many are availing themselves of the advantages thus opened to them. In this point what has hitherto been considered to a very great extent optional, might without any great hardship, be compulsory with young men seeking employment as school teachers. From this it is plain that with very little additional expense to that now incurred for the support of the common schools, means could be provided to give almost the whole growing population of the country a knowledge of the duties required of a soldier. That this would be the cheapest, if efficient, way of training our population to arms, no one can dispute, and its efficiency can be shown to be fully equal to its economy. Youth is beyond doubt the best season for education of every kind. The juvenile mind unformed and ready to receive almost any new idea, is more easily impressed than in after life, while the schoolmaster can exert an authority and enforce an amount of attention from his scholars, which the drill sergeant often finds great difficulty in exacting from grown up volunteers. Another great difficulty with which the present volunteer force has to contend, is securing the steady attendance of members at drill for half the value of military education is its being steadily imparted for some continuous length of time. Here the value of imparting such knowledge at school becomes apparent, for there month after month the master has the opportunity of giving daily instruction to the same scholars. The great duty which a soldier has to learn is implicit obedience, and no better place to impress this on the mind of the recruit, than in the schoolroom. The training is of such a simple nature that it can be imparted easily to any intelligent schoolboy. The cheapness and efficiency of the system is then, we think, proved beyond question, and examination will show that the advantages accruing to the boys in receiving this training, are fully equal to those received by the country which pays for imparting it. By frequent and continued military drill habits of steadiness, exactness and obedience are engendered, which can not fail to prove of the greatest service to the boys in after life, and a familiarity with firearms and a knowledge of their properties bestowed upon them, which we believe would materially lessen the number of accidents which now occur from their being handled by ignorant or careless persons. But the main benefit which both the country and the pupils would derive from such training would be the improved physique it would produce throughout the country. For some time past it has been conceded that mental education for youth is only giving him half the armor to fight the battle of life with and that such physical training should also be given as will as far as possible give that healthy constitution and

physique, without which the body wears out under the working of the brain. To promote this physical training has long been a favorite project among the educational leaders of the world, the ablest among whom strenuously object to cramming the brain and leaving the body to take care of itself, but who advocate the simultaneous education of the two. Pure air and plenty of exercise are just as necessary for the production of an intelligent population as the instruction of the schoolmaster. In England the encouragement given to boys to indulge heartily in athletic games of every kind, has most materially conduced to the development of that physique for which Englishmen are so justly celebrated, and the endurance and dogged resistance that has defied defeat in every portion of the world, has to a great extent been learnt in the play ground of the public school. The wisdom and necessity for encouraging a taste among schoolboys for active out door sports, has induced many of the teachers in this country to erect gymnasiums in connection with the schools they superintend. These places, however, form but a small proportion of the schools of the country, and are principally in the large towns, or at most, in thickly settled places, but do not affect those country settlements in which the bulk of our population resides, and in which the great portion of our common schools are situated. To supply gymnasiums for the public schools throughout the whole country, is more than could be expected from the Government, but we are sure they would find it highly advantageous to the Provinces to provide every school with the appliances for imparting military instruction to their scholars. Of the aptitude of the Canadian boys to receive such instruction, no one can have any doubt who has seen any of the Cadet corps which have been for any time in existence. We have no hesitation in saying that those we have seen have as good a knowledge of their work as almost any Volunteer corps in the country, and the scores made by them at three hundred yard ranges, after comparatively short practice, not one bit inferior to those of older members of the force. These boys, trained in youth, will never forget what they have learnt, and to them three days drill at any future period of life, will be of more benefit than the same number of weeks to a man entering the force as a raw recruit. The success which has hitherto attended the establishment of the Cadet corps. The aptitude of the scholars and their fondness for the work, the physical advantages they derive from it, and the small cost it would entail on the country, makes us hope that the Cadet corps will before long become a national institution and be regarded as the main training ground for our army of defense.—Com.

COURT MARTIAL.—A Court Martial was held here lately, upon six men of the 1st Batt. Rifle Brigade, for stealing wine from the officers mess. The singularity of the trial, consists in the whole six being tried "in the lump" and not separately as is the general custom.