

## THE CANADIAN MILITARY INSTITUTE, TORONTO.

An anonymous correspondent to the *Empire* having written disparagingly of the Canadian Military Institute, its members, operations and the lectures delivered here, that paper on being expostulated with by a deputation of the members, on the injustice done to the Institute, volunteered to send their best man to ascertain the facts concerning the case, and as a result of his investigation, the *Empire* published the following, in its issue of 18th November.

The Canadian Military Institute is now one of the well known organizations of the Dominion. Canada has long prided herself upon the attainments and loyalty of her militia and permanent corps. Up to 1890, however, there was no central point or fixed quarters where the officers of the country's defenders could gather socially and discuss matters of interest to the corps at large. The feeling was general that an organization should be formed for the purpose of providing such quarters. Lieut.-Col. Otter took the initiatory step, and in April, 1890, the Canadian Military Institute was established with comfortable quarters at 94½ King street west in this city.

The objects of the institute, as laid down in the constitution, are the promotion of military art, science and literature and for social purposes. There are three classes of members, (1) ordinary, (2) privileged and (3) honorary. The ordinary members may be either resident or non-resident, and are confined to officers and ex-officers of Her Majesty's regular and auxiliary forces and of the Canadian militia, and only such have the right to vote. All officers of the army and auxiliary forces and of the Canadian militia are admissible as privileged members during a period not exceeding two weeks or being introduced by a member. Honorary membership is conferred only upon such persons as, in the opinion of the members, may for some special reason be considered entitled to such distinction.

There are now on the register of the Institute 360 members in good standing, a fact which shows that the organization is highly appreciated by military men in Canada. It is under the patronage of the Governor-General, the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, the Minister of Militia, the Major-general and the Adjutant-general. The officers at present are: President, Lieut.-Col. J. M. Gibson, 13th Batt.; vice-presidents—Lieut.-Col. O'Brien, M.P., 35th Batt.; Lieut.-Col. F. C. Denison, C.M.G., M.P., G.G.D.G.; Lieut.-Col. W. H. Lindsay, 25th Batt.; Lieut.-Col. G. R. Starke, V.R.; Major F. King, W.C.F.B.; Major James Mason, R.G. Committee—Major S. M. Delamere, Q.O.R.; Major J. H. Meade, T.F.B.; Capt. W. G. Mutton, Q.O.R.; Capt. G. T. Symons, 12th Y.R.; Capt. F. A. Fleming, G.G.B.G.; Capt. S. A. Heward, R.G. Corresponding members—Lieut.-Col. T. C. Scoble, Winnipeg; Major C. B. Mayne, R.E., Kingston; Capt. E. F. Wurtel, Quebec; Capt. W. O. Tidswell, Hamilton; Capt. A. L. Jarvis, Ottawa; Inspector Macdonell, Regina. Honorary treasurer, Robert Myles, T.F.B.; honorary secretary, L. Homfray Irving, R.L.; corresponding secretary, Major F. F. Manley, R.G.; auditors, Capt. C. C. Bennett, Q.O.R., and G. R. Behan, late H.M. 19th Foot.

Lieut.-Col. Sir Casimir Gzowski is the only honorary life member of the institute.

The *Empire* glanced over the roll of membership, where the names of such well known military men as these were inscribed: Major-General D. B. Cameron, C.M.G., Lieut.-Col. G. T. Denison, Lieut.-Col. Grasett, Sir Adolphe Caron, Surgeon-Major Keefer, of the Bengal staff corps; Major C. B. Mayne, R.E., one of the best men on fire tactics in the British army to-day; Capt. Duncan McPherson (Montreal), Col. Prior, M.P., Lieut.-Col. Boswell (Winnipeg), Major Bennett (Toronto), Alfred Baker, M.A., Hector Cameron, Q.C., Col. Charles Clarke, Major Carpenter, M.P., Lieut.-Col. H. C. Gwyne, (77th Battalion), E. Irving, Q.C., Col. Jones (Brantford), Nicol Kingsmill, Q.C., Capt. R. E. Lazier (Belleville), Col. A. H. Macdonald (Guelph), Surgeon-Major Maclean (Meaford), J. H. Marshal, M.P., Inspector Macdonald (N.W.M.P., Regina), Major McLaren, (Hamilton) and many others.

The fifth clause of the constitution reads: "Politics and religious questions of every kind shall be absolutely excluded from open discussion in the institute." It is needless to say that this rule is strictly observed.

The institute since its formation has done a great deal to educate its members. The rule regarding lectures is as

follows: "The committee shall make such arrangements as they may deem necessary for meetings at which lectures may be given, and essays or papers read upon any subject relative to the military profession, history, etc. Inventors of articles connected with the military profession will be afforded an opportunity of exhibiting and explaining their inventions, and the fullest discussion on all such topics will be invited. Such papers may be published if the committee think fit. Friends of members may be present at these lectures."

Since the formation of the Institute interesting lectures have been delivered by the following gentlemen:

"Outposts," by Major-General Sir Frederick Middleton.

"Fire tactics for the Canadian Militia," by Major C. B. Mayne, R. E.

"Reconnaissances, with special references to Road Sketching without Instruments," by Lieut.-Col. D. T. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery.

"Homing Pigeons, Their Uses for Military Purposes," by Major-General D. R. Cameron.

"Rifle Shooting, with particular reference to the Sighting of a Rifle," by Major Villiers Sankey, Q.O.R.

"Drill and Discipline," by Lieut.-Col. W. E. O'Brien, M.P., 35th Batt.

"Incidents in the Early History of Canada—extracts from journals of C. O. Queen's Rangers, 1755-65," by Lieut.-Col. R. Z. Rogers, 40th Batt.

"Battlefields of the Niagara Peninsula during War of 1812-14," by Capt. E. Cruikshank, 44th Batt.

"Reminiscences of the Egyptian Campaign in the Soudan," by Lieut.-Col. F. C. Denison, M.P.

"Lower Canada during the War of 1812-14," by Mr. Benjamin Sulte.

"The Growth of a Military Spirit in Canada," by Lieut.-Col. O'Brien, M.P.

"With the Indian Contingent in Egypt," by Surgeon-Major Keefer, late Bengal army.

The energetic honorary Secretary, Mr. Irving, who by the way is one of the main stays of the institution, has written to the following gentlemen asking them to lecture before the institute during the coming winter season; Major-General Herbert, Col. Powell, Ottawa; Lieut.-Col. Otter, Lieut.-Col. Grasett, Lieut.-Col. Smith, D.A.G., Lieut.-Col. D. T. Irwin, Lieut.-Col. George T. Denison, Mr. Benjamin Sulte, vice-president of the Royal Society; Lieut.-Col. Sweny, Surgeon-Major Keefer, and Dr. J. B. Bourinot, the scholarly clerk of the Dominion House of Commons. With such an array of talent the lectures this winter ought to be well attended. Heretofore the interest in the subject has been so great that the committee has had to arrange for halls outside the quarters of the institute on several occasions. The more important of the papers read before the institute have been printed verbatim for distribution. There was an enormous demand for Major Mayne's paper on "Infantry Fire Tactics for the Canadian Militia." In fact, requests for copies came from Australia and India. These papers are printed at the expense of the institute, which receives a grant of \$100 from the Dominion Government and a similar grant from the Province of Ontario.

The Institute is also the possessor of a fine military library, which contains something like 800 interesting works on drill and technical matters relating to military studies. The historical works are especially good, many costly volumes, long since out of print, having been presented by admirers of the objects of the Institute. Of course, these works are kept in the quarters of the Institute for reference, and cannot be taken away. The Canadian military Institute fills that want which has so long been felt by Military men. Here all the meetings of several corps are held. The visiting militia officers now have a place where they can meet their friends. In fact, it is a very pleasant rendezvous.

The military authorities have awoke to the fact that the National Anthem is played by military bandmasters in various times, and have given notice that it is always to be played in time now specified.

The Admiralty have condemned the troopship *Orontes* and ordered her to be sold, and are negotiating with the Cunard line with a view to purchasing the steamship *Etruria*.