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A HINT TO THE INSTITUTE.



THE Toronto Military Institute held a reunion, November 2, in honor of the following: The Minister of Militia, the Major-General Commanding, the Quartermaster General, the Adjutant General, the past presidents Canadian Military Institute, the presidents Dominion and Ontario Rifle Associations and the Dominion and Ontario Artillery Associations, the commandants and adjutants of Wimbledon and Bisley

Teams, 1890-6, and the commandant and adjutant Shoeburyness Team, 1896. The attendance was somewhat limited.

Anticipating the presence of these distinguished guests, a number of Montreal officers went to Toronto, and some of them were more than disappointed to find that the Minister, the General, the Quartermaster-General, the Adjutant-General, and many other gentlemen were not there and had not even accepted the invitation. They were most hospitably received and spent a most enjoyable time. It is to be hoped that the Toronto Institute may before long gather these officers from Ottawa under its roof, but the president should not allow the announcement to be made until he is sure they are to be present.

EXPRESS YOUR OWN VIEWS.

We want again to impress upon the readers of THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE the fact that the committee who are responsible for the editorial views given utterance to in these columns are not to be held accountable for the views expressed by the regular correspondents at the different military centres. THE GAZETTE recognizes that greatest good can best be done for the militia by opening its columns for a free interchange of opinion. It may differ, and often does very materially, from the views of its own correspondents. They are all men intimately connected with the militia, and are supposed to give the views of representative officers in their own district. Readers who may differ from these views are invited to write THE GAZETTE and present their experiences and opinions. In doing so it is not necessary for them to spend time on an effort to turn out a literary composition. It is facts we want—brief and to the point. This is not a literary magazine.

In a recent issue of THE GAZETTE a correspondent criticised

the use of non-commissioned officers of the permanent corps as instructors to militia battalions. While there is something in what he said, his views are not by any means the views of THE MILITARY GAZETTE. On the other hand, it is strongly in favor of employing men from the schools. If some of these officers who are always ready to impute improper motives and talk of persecution would refer to back numbers they would see that THE GAZETTE has always favored the use of instructors from the permanent corps when it is at all possible to call them in.

THE PERMANENT CORPS.

A WELL-KNOWN reader of THE GAZETTE wishes us to express our views on the permanent corps. He points out the enormous sums of money they cost the country and the comparatively little return we get for it, and advocates their disbandment, the expenditure of that money on the active militia, and a return to the old system of education. We understand this view has been strongly urged upon the Minister of Militia by leading officers and one or two influential members of the Liberal Parliament.

We cannot agree with our correspondent. It is quite true that the Schools have not by any means fulfilled the purposes for which they were organized. This has been due to the fact that the majority of the men appointed as officers are inefficient and incapable of performing the work expected of them, and to the fact that the late G.O.C. unfortunately failed to recognize that they were intended as Schools of Instruction and not as a regular army. These officers insist that they were organized for garrison duty, and that the work as Schools is incidental. If, however, they will refer to the reports of the late G.O.C., Sir E. Selby Smythe, they will see that he recommended the organization of such corps for instructional purposes only. The only corps that seem to have been primarily organized for garrison purposes are the artillery at Quebec and Kingston. The infantry officers unfortunately, but especially many of the non-combatant and combatant officers, have fallen into the habit of correcting any who may by chance call them Schools. At London, where new barracks were erected, the words "Military School" were inserted by the contractor over the gate, but, as a local officer writes us, these words were obnoxious to some officers and were soon after cut off.

THE GAZETTE is strongly in favor of continuing these corps as Schools. We do not agree with the view offered by some that every man connected with them should be purely and simply a schoolmaster, but that a combination of soldier and instructor is what would be in the best interests of the force at the present time. The chief aim of the officers should be to give the best possible instruction. To do so to the best advantage they must have officers and men well trained in drill, in interior economy, in rifle practice, and everything else that goes to make a perfect soldier, so that they will be examples to the rest of the militia. Every N.C.O. and man should be capable of instructing a regiment or smaller unit. If we cannot get them for 50c. a day, let us pay more. We can never have such Schools with present officers. Many of them will have to go.

The appointment of a Board of Visitors has done a great deal of good to the Royal Military College. A similar board should be appointed for the militia to look after the permanent corps. Perhaps a board for each arm of the service would do the most effective work. They should go carefully into the personnel of the Schools and weed out those officers whom everybody knows are useless as instructors. They should arrange the work to suit the convenience of those wishing to qualify. It should be much more practical. It is generally admitted that too much time is now spent on unimportant work.