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NOTE AND COMMENT.

Apropos of the holiday parades proposed to be held in Canada under official supervision, a letter recently appearing in the *London Globe* is interesting reading. The writer, Mr. Herbert P. Miller, deplors the decreasing interest in the volunteer force, and the falling off in the number of recruits, and cites a number of causes. Amongst these he places "the abolition of grand annual reviews, such as used to be carried out at Easter, and substituting hole and corner marches of a few men." He continues:—

"The abolition of great reviews has had a detrimental effect on recruiting. On such occasions the public shook hands with its volunteer force, and the volunteers knew that, at least once a year, they would be measured by the press and their fellow-citizens. Very few people concern themselves about the doings of a few detachments scattered over the country. Again, a big review fires the imagination of youth; the march to the downs under flying banners, the beating of the drums, the rattle of the artillery, and the cheers of the people make many a lad determined to become one of the chief actors in such a scene another year; and he does it—a step he never regrets.

Removing the National Rifle Association meetings from Wimbledon to Bisley is doing much to depopularise the movement. The social meetings between the volunteers, their friends, and the public after gunfire did much to keep Wimbledon in the front rank of popular institutions, although some were stiff-necked enough to think such doings dreadfully unmilitary. Since the National Rifle Association has gone to the neighbourhood of Aldershot and Woking, to be eventually cremated for the benefit of the regular army, the public mind has taken but little interest in its proceedings. As touching the sport of rifle-shooting, Lord Wantage said the other day at Reading, "Were it not for the emulation afforded by rifle shooting the movement never would have continued to keep such a strong hold upon the people of this country. The love of sport is almost universally diffused throughout all classes in this country. Our wealthy fellow subjects indulge in it to any extent in hunting and covert shooting, and our poorer fellow subjects take it out in rifle shooting at the butts."

English papers to hand contain a synopsis of the report of the National Rifle Association, from which it is apparent that there was no good foundation for the rumour recently in circulation, that a suspension of the annual prize meetings was amongst the probabilities. True, there was a deficit of \$10,000 last year, the receipts, inclusive of special subscriptions, being \$190,000 against the immense expenditure of \$200,000, covering the cost of removal; but the council consider that the financial prospects are encouraging. The entry money amounted to \$65,000 and \$60,000 was distributed in prizes.

By oversight, we last week omitted from the list of prominent military men standing for Parliamentary honours, the name of Lieut.-Col. R. Tyrwhitt, the commanding officer of the 36th Battalion. Col. Tyrwhitt is

already elected, being one of the few members returned by acclamation last Thursday. In the next House of Commons, as in the last, he will represent South Simcoe. Col. Tyrwhitt was on active service in the North-West in 1885 with the York-Simcoe provisional battalion. He is exceedingly popular in Parliament and in the Militia.

Another military candidate not mentioned was Major Edwards, an Imperial Officer on the staff of the Royal Military College at Kingston, who deserted his post to become a candidate for that city in opposition to the Premier, Sir John Macdonald, and Mr. Alexander Gunn, one of the most influential citizens of Kingston. He certainly could not have expected to poll many votes, for Radicalism such as his does not "take" in this country, and his candidature furnishes a powerful argument for use by those who are opposed to the award of Canadian posts to old country officers.

Major General Herbert's first "General Order" consists of a pithy lecture to the officers of the permanent force on the subject of courts-martial sentences. It is evidence of the lively interest he takes in the welfare of the force under his command.

MILITARY DRILL IN SCHOOLS.

The *Guardian*, of Chicago, publishes the following, editorially, on the subject of "Military Drill in Schools":—

"Military drill, as one of the requirements in a college course, has long since passed the experimental stage and has been proven a splendid success and an inestimable benefit in many—it might be said most of our colleges. The fact of its success in the college has suggested its introduction into our high schools, and although in these latter the attempt has met with varied success, there can be no doubt that in high schools of sufficient size to afford a good company the experiment can, with perseverance, be made to work excellent results.

"The swaggering, shambling freshman is far more easily distinguished from upper classmen in colleges where drill is a part of the curriculum than in the colleges where that branch is omitted. From the time the novice takes his first 'setting up' exercise to the time when he is mustered out a trim cadet, he has undergone a physical transformation little less than miraculous. True, the freshman often faints