

1 GEORGE V., A. 1911

been on wrong lines—inasmuch as 'shock' action is practically impossible in such close country, and cavalry would have to act as Mounted Rifles. Their training should, therefore, tend towards securing efficiency in this direction.

34. With this I am entirely in accord. The Militia Council has, for the last five years, aimed at training the cavalry upon these lines—the fact that the cavalry are not given a sword but are armed with rifle only should afford sufficient proof of this.

35. He also finds that squadron officers generally are not sufficiently acquainted with their work, and that nothing like enough troop and squadron instruction is given. Great care should, he says, be taken in the selection of young officers and N.C.O.'s, and they should receive a much more extensive preliminary training than now, with constant supervision.

36. He, therefore, strongly recommends that the annual training should be increased from 12 to 16 days for the cavalry, and that a definite syllabus of training should be laid down and enforced. This extension of the period of training was advocated by me for all arms of the service in my last annual report, while a syllabus of training, such as is recommended, is already laid down and is carried out.

37. While he was not favourably impressed with what he saw of the training methods of the Infantry, yet he remarks that the manœuvring power displayed at the field exercises was better than he had expected.

38. He animadverts strongly upon the excessive attention given by the Infantry, especially in City Corps, to ceremonial exercises and evolutions. His criticism is, no doubt, just, and I have, at all my inspections, consistently discouraged merely ceremonial drill. But old habits die hard, and it is natural, as Sir John French himself perceives, that the weaker commanding officers should prefer the easy road to ceremonial smartness to the hard and less showy work involved in attaining service efficiency.

39. He recommends a revision of the syllabus of training and the devotion of more time to company drill and manœuvre. According to the 1910 syllabus of training in camps, only half a day of the whole available time is now allotted to battalion ceremonial drill, and the same amount to the whole of brigade drill, including ceremonial drill. This might, perhaps, be still further reduced, but does not appear excessive. It should, perhaps, be added that at only one camp did the Inspector General actually see infantry ceremonial drill in progress, and that merely because it happened to be the afternoon allotted for that drill.

40. He lays special stress upon the importance of strict attention to company training as the basis of all real efficiency, and points out that commanding officers have failed to realize this. I have made almost precisely the same criticisms in every one of my annual reports upon training. He considers that the instructors at the Infantry Schools should devote more attention to tactics and less to ceremonial drill than is at present the case. This is perfectly sound, but it requires constant supervision to make sure that the instructions on this subject are strictly adhered to.

41. He considers that more telegraph companies of engineers should be raised. I understand that steps in this direction are already in progress.

42. In short, we are already working on the lines which Sir John French recommends and can cordially concur in his proposals.

CAMP GROUNDS AND DRILL HALLS.

43. The Imperial Inspector General considers the acquisition and establishment of the camp at Petawawa to be the most important step yet taken towards efficiency for war. It should be fully utilized, especially as all the other camp grounds seen in use are far too restricted in area.

44. At no camp which he visited in the east did he find sufficient ground available for training the troops, but, at the same time, more practicable allotment by the camp