

and lover of his country should as far as possible be prepared for, come it now or come it fifty years hence; in such a case I say we should have not only a well drilled and disciplined body of men as a nucleus to rally round, but also a means of turning into soldiers the whole body of our male population in the shortest possible time.

Having these objects in view we need a system which will keep our companies recruited, and for this we need drill at company headquarters, and we also require that these companies shall be as highly drilled as our means will allow, and for this we need drill in camps and contact with bodies of perfectly drilled men.

I think that no officer who has had experience in recruiting will dispute that it is impossible to keep a company complete in numbers at all times without drill at the company headquarters where the recruits are obtained; and for this purpose I would propose that each man be paid Four Dollars for sixteen drills of one and a half hours each, every three hours' drill to be equal to two ordinary drills, and the company officers to be allowed four days' pay without allowances; sixteen of such drills (out no less) would I believe from what I have seen, be sufficient to keep the company recruited and teach the men enough recruit and company drill to save at least six days in camp. I may mention that four dollars is about the amount which municipal bodies find it necessary to pay to firemen in order to keep up an organization among them: as to the pay of the officers it would give them some money to spend on the men, and if not disposed to spend their colonels understand how to get it out of them for bands.

To ensure some real knowledge of drill and to teach both officers and men how to take care of themselves, it is absolutely necessary to have drill in camps, and for this purpose the battalions should be taken out for eight clear days and "put through" when they are out; the men should be paid eight dollars and each company allowed two dollars and fifty cents per man for rations for the ten days they are away from home, the rations to be supplied through a commissariat and anything saved to be spent on the men. The eight day camps have some very important advantages, in the first place it is the employer, not the volunteer, who grumbles at the time in camp, and I found that the employer could manage to get along very well for eight days without much inconvenience or grumbling, while after the sixteen days in camps they did all they could to discourage their employees from volunteering as they found the inconvenience and loss too great; the men get more pay and I have no hesitation in saying that there was more drill learned and a better discipline kept up during the eight day camps which I have attended than during the sixteen day camps. It would be better to bring the Sunday about the middle of the

camp so as to give the men a rest; on the first two days there could be two company drills and one battalion drill, and the remaining five days one company, one battalion and one brigade drill each day. 15 rounds of ball cartridge to be fired in camp and 45 rounds at the company headquarters, and if arrangement for baggage waggons and commissariat could be made it would be an advantage to move the camp 10 or 15 miles each day during the last two or three days, and if possible to have a field day with another brigade to end with.

As to the command of these camps it is clear that the general good of the service should be the first object in view; and for this reason I would propose that our Government should ask the Imperial Government to detail four or five field officers, on active service in the Regular Army to take charge of these Brigade Camps, and I think that it is beyond question that there would be more drill learnt, a better discipline maintained, and more efficient reports and suggestions obtained by the Government than can possibly be had under the present system.

As everything possible should be done to raise the standing of the Force and give the men an idea of the high estimate placed on their services, it would also be well to ask the commander of the Forces in Canada or some other General officer to inspect the Brigades. I well remember the great effect produced on the minds of the men and the pride which we felt as volunteers in 1866, when General Lindsay and his staff came to the small town where our Battalion was stationed for the express purpose of inspecting us; and I know that he won the hearts of many men who were at that time in the ranks by the few well timed and complimentary remarks which he made to us, and they felt as if there was some appreciation for their services.

I have already said much more than I intended when I commenced this letter; but I cannot help endorsing "Centurion's" proposal to bring the military school men into camp as furnishing a means of getting at their services; at first, as drill instructors for recruits and finally as officers. I would also suggest that as there is a change of Government in England, we might ask to have three battalions of Infantry and three field batteries stationed in the country, one of each at Halifax, Montreal, and Toronto, not as protection, but as examples of drill and patterns for us to follow, the Dominion providing barracks and paying the cost of transport.

With regard to the pay, if municipal institutions were established in all the Provinces it would not be too much to ask the County Councils to pay for the drill at company headquarters by direct taxation; many counties in Ontario do as much now for their volunteers. My proposals are not more expensive than those of "Centurion" as the six days ration money saved in camp would

pay the excess over his estimate for headquarters drill.

Enlistment should be for three years and nothing should give exemption from drill in time of peace except a doctor's certificate, removal to a distance of more than eight miles from company headquarters or the providing of an approved substitute to be enlisted for the full term.

Incapacity, neglect of duty, or military insubordination should be the only cases for the removal of officers; and in connection with the subject of officers the country requires a West Point School or Military University having a course of four years where the young men of the Dominion could obtain an education which would be as advantageous to them as the ordinary University course, without the expectation of getting a government appointment afterwards. Instruction and lodging to be free but board to be paid for.

CANADIAN.

THE MILITIA SYSTEM OF CANADA.

A memorandum on the militia system of Canada by the Military Secretary to the Governor General cannot but be regarded as an official exposition of his Excellency's views on the subject, and to be read with great interest. Sir Charles Dike's recent ignorant declamation on the defense of the colonies renders, moreover, the appearance of Colonel Fletcher's memorandum particularly *appropos*. The Radical member for Chelsea declaimed loudly on the injustice of an expectation that we should afford military assistance to our dependencies, but, as was pointed out at the time, the amount of such assistance is, in fact, infinitesimally small. Colonel Fletcher shows our assertions as regards Canada, at all events, were correct. In spite of the immense demand for labour and the consequent high price which it commands, the number of men enrolled in the Dominion as militiamen is close on seven hundred thousand, of whom 43,000 belong to the active militia. Nor can either the the reserve or active militia be regarded as a mere paper force. The former is enrolled by districts divided into classes, and provided with such a machinery that every member of it could be laid hold of for service within a few days if required. As to the active militia, it is composed entirely of volunteers—the ballot being allowed to remain dormant—who engage for periods of three years, and are liable to undergo 16 days' continuous training every year. In 1872 no fewer than 30,144 officers and men performed 16 days' training, but in 1873, less money than hitherto having been voted, only a little over 24,000 men were called out. There is a Minister of Defence, who corresponds to our Secretary of War, an adjutant-general who is in reality commander in chief, and 11 deputy adjutant-generals—one for each district—assisted by brigade majors. As to cost, we find that in 1872, when over 30,000 men were called out for training, the cost was a little more than £312,500. This is certainly a very small amount considering the result, which on the whole, must be regarded as satisfactory, for out of the 30,144 men under training 1,666 were cavalry, 951—with 40 guns—field artillery, and 1,697 garrison artillery. As to the efficiency thus secured the opinion of Colonel Fletcher, who was for several years an adjutant of the Guards, is entitled to respect.