

## SESSIONAL PAPER No. 35a

For this excessive devotion to ceremonial the training staff cannot be held free from blame. On the only two occasions on which I saw classes of young infantry officers at training schools, one class was employed at ceremonial brigade drill and the other at the practice of saluting with swords.

The syllabus of infantry training should be revised; brigade and battalion ceremonial drills should be discouraged, and more time allotted to company drill and manœuvre (Part II., Infantry Training). Every opportunity should be taken of practising the troops in field manœuvre, and the instruction in the schools should be of a more tactical and less of a ceremonial nature.

I have had but few opportunities of observing the field training of the Canadian Field Engineer companies, but those which I saw at Petawawa camp seemed making very satisfactory progress towards efficiency.

It appears that the principle which has had such excellent results in the Territorial army, of utilizing to the utmost the special expert knowledge and training which abounds in civil life and turning it to the purposes of national defence, is also very apparent in Canada.

There is only one telegraph company, and I think steps should soon be taken to place this important branch of military engineering on the same efficient footing as the field companies appear to be.

## (D.) ARTILLERY PRACTICE, MUSKETRY AND RANGES

I inspected the artillery ranges at Petawawa, and was much impressed by the suitability of the ground for artillery manœuvres and practice. The equipment of the ranges and the management of the targets were satisfactory.

I saw the 2nd and 8th brigades at practice.

Considering that these brigades had been only a few days in camp, the results were surprisingly good. The practice was carried out under a suitable scheme, and was well conducted. Battery commanders appeared to have a good knowledge of the theoretical principles of artillery fire, and with more opportunities for practice would, I feel sure, soon acquire the quickness and accuracy in which they are, naturally, at present somewhat lacking.

I was able to inspect only a few of the rifle ranges, but I understand that, although insufficient in number to meet requirements, they are generally satisfactory. It should be remembered that, for the efficiency of a force whose opportunities of training are so limited, ample and convenient range accommodation is an absolute necessity. I have observed with satisfaction the large provision of auxiliary apparatus for musketry training, such as sub-target rifles and miniature ranges.

The musketry practice which I observed was being fairly, although somewhat leniently, conducted.

## (E.) CAMPING GROUNDS AND DRILL HALLS.

I have visited the camping grounds at Petawawa, Niagara, Barriefield and Lévis.

The acquisition and establishment of the camp at Petawawa seems to me to be the most important step which has yet been taken towards securing the efficiency of the troops in war.

It is an ideal terrain for the instruction of forces for fighting in country such as that of eastern Canada. The great extent of ground which it covers, a great part of its surface being wooded and of an intricate nature, its gentle undulations, and its position on the banks of the Ottawa river, render it capable of fulfilling all the requirements of a great central camp of instruction.