

caused by the death of Sir Patrick Grant is most heartily welcomed. No man is more popular either in England or India than is "Dear Old Bob." He is considered to deserve well of his country, equally because of his splendid generalship, his conspicuous gallantry, and the good work he did in connection with the military forces in India.

The same service magazine has this to say about another of the recipients of birthday honors: "Nothing, it is felt, could be more fitting than the bestowal of a knighthood on the "doyen" of war correspondents, Dr. W. H. Russell. The great service he did during the Crimean war in exposing the shortcomings of our army organization and the unnecessary amount of suffering inflicted upon our brave soldiers, is still well remembered, as is also the undeserved obloquy incurred by him through his sturdy and unflinching exposure of abuses." One of the best things Dr. Russell did for the soldier of the Regular Army at the time of the Crimean War was to thoroughly expose the unserviceable nature and bad condition of his belts and equipment; but through no fault of his it was a bad thing for the Canadian Militia. The cast-off rubbish returned into stores on re-equipment found its way into militia stores and has been the equipment of the force ever since.

Is not the time devoted by the Active Militia to physical training so much time lost? It is an interesting enough exercise for the men and affords a popular spectacle for sight-seers at annual inspections; but is it not worth while devoting time to attaining clock-work precision in these exercises while the period of annual drills is too short to enable the militiamen to gain anything but a hazy idea of squad drill, company drill and the manual exercise, not to speak of battalion drill, shooting, guard duties and discipline? Physical drill is, of course, an absolute necessity for the regular soldier, being intended for the development of muscular strength whereby bodily health is promoted which will enable the soldier, who is liable at any and at all times to be called upon to exchange the physical ease and comforts of garrison life for the fatigues

and hardships of a campaign, to better endure these hardships. The Canadian militiaman in his daily associations and in the athletic sports, which fortunately are so popular in the Dominion, has ample opportunity to develop his muscular strength without physical drill.

The *United Service Gazette* lays down the very obvious rule that the strength of a chain being that of its weakest link, nothing that effects the efficiency of the military forces of any portion of the Empire can fail to be of Imperial interest. Our contemporary goes on to express its satisfaction at the reorganization of the military forces of New South Wales. Would to goodness that the full significance of the good axiom laid down by the *United Service Gazette* were appreciated in Britain and in Canada and that sufficient pressure were brought to bear to secure a complete reorganization of the Canadian Militia, which, to put it very mildly, is certainly not one of the sound links in the chain of Imperial defence.

It is interesting to learn that one of the results of the reorganization of the armed force of our sister colony at the antipodes is the institution of practical instruction in the field for all three armies combined, initiated by a series of tactical schemes worked under possible service conditions. With the exception of the annual Thanksgiving Day field day at Toronto, the expense of which, by the way, is borne by the corps participating, there is nothing attempted in the way of practical training in field duties in Canada.

It is mentioned also in connection with this scheme of reorganization that new competitions have been introduced into the rifle association meetings, namely, "battle firing" and mounted competitions. We have all along urged that in Canada our rifle associations should give more and more encouragement to the militia to compete in matches fixed under conditions fairly approximating to those under which they would find themselves on active service, and the most of such contentions appears to have been fully recognized in New South Wales.

There is no doubt that the time has fully arrived for a complete reorganization of the Canadian Militia. It is simply ruination to proceed as we are doing. This eternal fighting and struggling on the part of officers of the militia for enough money to keep the force up to its present meagre state of efficiency is having a most discouraging effect upon all ranks of the service. The government and opposition alike appear to treat the militia rather as a practical joke than as the safeguard of internal security, and the Dominion's only contribution towards the defence of the Empire, it pays Canada so well to belong to. A permanent force is established to maintain schools and provide instructors for the main body of the force. To command this force and to do this instructional work the government appoints one or two good men whose claims could not be disputed, and dozens of others whose only claims are political and social, and this though scores of others specially trained by the government at great expense for this very work were available. Then, as soon as the public purse becomes lean, the government without the least apparent concern, decides to cut down the Militia vote. If there are to be retrenchments in the public departments, the militia estimates are the first to be pared down.

The following, taken from a letter received from an officer high up in the Militia, is a sample of what we hear almost daily from some of our subscribers. We quote verbatim. "I have served in the ——— Battalion for thirty years and occupied every position from a Private to Lieutenant-Colonel, and have always taken a great interest in the force, and my liking for it does not seem to abate; but really the way we are treated by the government is intolerable, and the only wonder is that officers remain as long as they do. Not only are we treated badly as regards money matters, to make our corps efficient, but also regarding discipline. It interferes, for political purposes, with the interior administration of our battalions. For instance, the case I have had before the department for over a year touching the conduct of a useless officer, has received no attention."