

Subsequently, and when it appeared probable that no increase in the establishment was likely to be authorized, they were, with the exception of the artillery, considered and treated as entirely independent units with instructional duties only. The most recent view, and the one which has led to much mis-conception on the part of the general public, is that these corps should be organized, and equipped as fighting units, and trained individually to the highest possible standard. Their duties as instructors to the Active Militia were to be considered as subsidiary to the above, and were in fact only participated in by a small portion of the unit itself.

5. Now, with regard to the above, so long as the schools did their duty as such, and that no attempt was made by their officers to claim exclusive privileges or rank, they were very generally let alone by the general public, and the Militia generally, the only ripples on the general calm being caused by some of the first appointments to the corps being made without any apparent fitness or qualification on the part of the applicant. When, however, the last mentioned view as to our sphere of usefulness began to be generally appreciated, when officers and men attending the courses of instruction found themselves segregated into what are termed "attached units," and their participation in the benefits of the school limited to the instruction to be derived from a subaltern in charge, and two or three non-commissioned officers, public opinion, as represented by officers and men of the Militia who gained the ear of their representatives in Parliament, and members of the government, seem to have taken the alarm, and when the question of reducing the Militia expenditure was considered, the Permanent Corps were selected as the first victims, and it was generally argued that as Instructional Corps, under the existing system, 500 of all ranks would be ample for the purpose.

6. Now, if the foregoing remarks at all represent the true state of the case, it is very evident that in order to re-establish the true status of the Permanent Corps, and to emphasize the value of the instruction which can only be obtained through their means, and which is indispensable to the officers and men of the Active Militia, immediate steps should be taken to make it very clearly understood by everyone interested in the Militia, that the true sphere of usefulness of our Corps is primarily that of schools of instruction for the rest of the Active Militia. Everything else should be subordinated to this purpose. All the officers, non-commissioned