

ling its administration as the affair of national and vital importance, which it is. We hope this communication will be the means of bringing out other correspondence from men who are as able, by their education and training, to express an opinion on the subject as our present correspondent.

CANADA'S MILITARY SYSTEM.

To the Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—In these days of unrest, in a military sense, it is, I think, essential for the best interests of the service that public opinion should be directed aright. There are many schools of thought and each school has, to a certain extent, material with which to build our military structure.

1. One school may desire a "standing army" as the only means of defence.

2. Another wishes to foster rural and city corps at the expense of the permanent force.

3. Another points out that, as we have won the Queen's prize at Bisley, we should encourage as our "ideal army" a body of "sharp shooters," picked up here and there at the sweet will of individuals, without other training than how to carry off the first prize at Bisley or Ottawa, the knowledge of drill and discipline being "nowhere."

Now, it is the blending together of these various schools in our present system, it is the working together of all sorts and conditions of men, on the lines so well laid down for us by our predecessors, that I have in view in sending for publication in the MILITARY GAZETTE these brief notes.

No reflective mind, with any military knowledge, would pin his faith, as to the only foundation for our force, on any argument put forth by one of the above schools to the exclusion of other arguments.

(a) No European army, nor any Asiatic, is conducted solely as a "standing army" so called. Each has its Landwehr and Landstrum (whatever their name.)

(b) As well ask the Egyptians to make bricks without straw as to require the rural or city corps of Canada to train effectively without the permanent instructional force.

There are, it is well known, three means of conveying instruction, viz: (1) through the eye; (2) through the ear; (3) by experience.

These three means of instruction are employed in the permanent force in placing the model soldier (before the eyes of his brethren in the active militia—the "Fugleman," if you will, of the force.)

Can a man be expected to communicate knowledge effectively to others unless he has himself acquired it, and become efficient? A man must first learn to obey before he can be fitted to command.

In the third place experience teaches—no mere boys in the art of war are required now-a-days—you must be a student—you must think before you act. What then is the military structure upon

which our superstructure is to be built?

Given to us at the time of confederation in 1868 by that best of soldiers and statesmen, Sir Patrick Macdougall, backed by our much respected and esteemed Adjutant General, Colonel Powell, during the regime of the well-known Sir George Cartier, the force possesses all the component parts so important in an efficient army, so well referred to in Sir Patrick's "Art of War," and though names have changed the parts remain in every army—advance guard, support, reserve.

Our advance guard—the Royal Military College, the permanent force, cavalry, artillery and infantry, as a means of conveying instruction, with the whole active militia of these arms.

Support—all men of required age who have served in the permanent corps, or other active force, though not now enrolled.

Reserve—the rest of the militia of Canada.

To develop this force, not to cut adrift any portion and say, "let it go," should be the business of every statesman. What, says the Saturday Review of 10 June, 1871, "While we in England have been employed in noiselessly discussing the best offensive organization, the Canadians appear to have quietly, and with a minimum both of cost to the country and of hardship to individuals, solved the question. Indeed we should say that with the exception of Russia and Switzerland, Canada is far in advance as regards defensive organization of every country in the world," "after calm consideration and successive elaborations the results have been obtained." And I am strongly of opinion that, in the lapse of time, since 1871, the organization of Canada has not deteriorated a whit. It has since been tested and not been found wanting. What it now requires is that same "calm consideration" above referred to, not cutting down, but building up; a commission (composed of a few experienced men) to enquire into its wants—a word of encouragement, not stone throwing.

"PEDAGOG."

Fredericton, 27th July, 1895.

A Former Silver Medalist.

Ex-Staff Sergt. James Hutchinson, of the Royal Grenadiers, Toronto, in the year 1868, while attached to an English regiment of volunteers, won Her Most Gracious Majesty's prize in the first stage, value £60 stg., silver medal and silver badge, which was presented to him by Her Royal Highness the Princess Helena. Private Skedden, of the 13th Batt., Hamilton, this year won the "Graphic" prize of fifty guineas. This prize takes the place of the "Henry Peek" prize, given annually to the National Rifle Association by the late Sir Henry Peek, of London, to be competed for by winners of Enfield prizes during the Wimbledon meeting. This prize was also won by Sergt. Hutchinson in the year 1869. We have now in Canada at the present time the gold and silver medalists, in the first and sec-

ond stages of the Queen's prize, and the winners of the same prize of fifty guineas, viz., the "Graphic" and "Henry Peek," one of the most important and valuable prizes given by the N. R. A.

Sergt. Hutchinson was one of the team representing his regiment in England, which carried off the "China Challenge Cup" for volley firing. He was also chosen as one of Scotland's representatives to shoot in the great International match between England, Scotland and Ireland in the years 1870 and 1871. Scotland won the "Trophy" in 1871. The late Lord Lovat, who was at the time Captain of the Scottish Twenty, presented him with a silver cup as a memento of Scotland's victory, which is now in his possession.

In the year 1871, the first Canadian team went to Wimbledon, under the command of the late Col. Skinner, of Hamilton. Sergt. Hutchinson on that occasion shot with the home team, who were successful in winning the "Kolapore" match, the Canadian team taking second prize of £80 sterling. Major Waller, of the Surrey Rifles, and Sergt. Hutchinson were selected by the then President of the N. R. A. to march up to the platform and receive the cup on behalf of the team from the Lady who on that occasion presented the prizes to the successful competitors at the meeting.

IMPERIAL.

Colonial Linked Battalions.

Suggestion that the Home System be Extended to Canada.

The Maple Leaf, the paper published by the 100th Royal Canadian Regiment of British Infantry, prints some interesting correspondence respecting that regiment and its Canadian affiliations.

Lt.-Col. Gartshore, of the 1st Hussars, Canadian militia, London, Ont., wrote a most interesting letter to the Maple Leaf, in which, among other things, he said, commenting on an article in that paper:

"I can endorse the article with reference to keeping up the union between Great Britain and the colonies by having linked battalions in the colonies, and know from experience that many men would gladly enlist if opportunities were provided.

"I would like to see the depot of the 'Royal Canadians' in Canada; this connection could be fostered and your corps be Canadian in reality as well as in name. From the flattering reports of the character of the men in the regiment, I would not like to promise a better class of men, but we could promise as good and hardy men as can be found in any country."

"An Old Soldier," responding to Lt.-Col. Gartshore's communication, wrote: "The deep and kindly interest taken by Col. Gartshore in our regiment, as evidenced in his communication, expresses but the sentiments of all in the broad Dominion.

"As to the 'good and hardy men,' the gallant officer tells us Canada could supply us with, we are well aware of the truth of what he says.

"Indeed, we have only to ask old soldiers (many of them still serving in the