

The militia of this country is indirectly the actual creation of its officers, it is they who recruit the men, and it is they who altogether contribute to their efficiency as soldiers, both by the money and time they devote to this end. Many are gentlemen that have sacrificed private ends to go through courses of instruction at the Royal Schools of Gunnery, so that they may be better able to be of service to their country. In justice, these gentlemen should receive some recognition at the hands of the Government, and at least be afforded an opportunity of obtaining, by competition, any appointments in the permanent Militia or staff of our service, which might become vacant. The "long course" of instruction in "B" Battery is of no light study, and of no insignificant a test as to military ability, comprising as it does, being able to instruct in gun drills, mortar drill, and practice with projectiles, gym drill, shifting ordnance infantry drill, also thoroughly efficient in riding drill and stable duties, field artillery movements and positions, artillery material and stores, examination and sighting ordnance, laboratory operations, construction of siege batteries, rafts and bridges, gunnery and applied mathematics, fortification and sieges, military surveying and reconnaissance, tactics of all arms, strategy and military history of one campaign, interior economy, regimental duty and charge of armament of the fortress, Queen's and militia regulations, and articles of war as applied to Canadian Militia.

It is somewhat painful to think that officers, after having devoted between one and two years to the study of these subjects, and passing an examination to the entire satisfaction of the Commandant of the School, should, under the present regulations of the Militia Department, be debarred from ever obtaining a commission in the permanent establishment of the force, as all appointments in the "A" and "B" Batteries, and, for all we know, any other batteries that may be formed are to be given, in the future, to the cadets from the Royal Military College.

The workman is worthy of his hire, and those who create an establishment have, at least, the first claim to its command. The Royal Schools of Gunnery and Royal Military College are instructional institutions which have grown up, as a matter of necessity, when once our colonial army became a reality; but it is impolitic and unwise to ignore the position and rights of those who have been, and are the main stay to its actual existence, for without their zeal, influence and money, our Militia would sink into a phantom to-morrow. What the Militia officers want and require are, as in every other worldly organization, prizes to work for, let them be ever so few and hard to win, thus putting earnest life into the study of military science; without this the whole command will drift into a sham, and simply to be able to swagger in a military uniform become the sole ambition of those who call themselves officers.

The visible effects of the teaching of the R. S. G. are conspicuously apparent in those corps who are fortunate in having officers holding certificates from these schools. It is thus that the laborer is worthy of his hire, and it is rather an unjust matter that the fruits of their work should be given to and monopolized by those who have no claim to its growth.

In the event of England engaging in a foreign war, the militia of this country is ready and eager to bear its share of fighting for Britain's honour, as is already known to the

War Office at home, and as they would surely prove a most valuable auxiliary to the Imperial arm, might not the Horse Guards place our service on the same footing as its sister at home, by granting two or three commissions annually in Her Majesty's Army, to be competed for by officers attached to the Royal Schools of Gunnery at Kingston and Quebec, the standard of examination to be that by which Militia officers at home obtain such appointments.

We appeal directly to His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief, and to Mr. Childers to take the subject into their favorable consideration, an act which, if granted, would at once raise the whole tone of the service, and it is to be sincerely trusted that should General Sir Selby Smyth be fortunate enough to bring his scheme for an Imperial Colonial Reserve to a successful issue, that all commissions and appointments in same be the actual selection of open competition, in which political interest has no say.

Royal Military College.

The closing exercises and graduation of the first class took place on the 30th ult., at the Royal Military College, which has now been in operation since 1876, in the presence of Sir Alexander Campbell, Minister of Militia, who came from Ottawa specially for the occasion, and a large attendance of officers of the permanent and Active Militia, and many of the leading citizens of Kingston.

After the cadets had gone through the artillery, infantry, manual firing and sword-exercises, all of which were performed with a precision and skill hardly to be excelled by regular soldiers, speaking highly of the great care, attention and ability bestowed upon the military part of their training by Major Bidout, 90th Regiment, and Major Jones, R. A., and after an inspection of the various military engineering works which have been executed by the cadets during their course of study under the instruction of Major Walker, R. E.; the proceedings began by the Commandant expressing regret that the senior prize man of the College, Company Sergeant-Major Perry had met with a serious accident, which would prevent his receiving his prizes in person. The medical officer of the College had reported, however, that the injury would not be permanent, and that he was fairly on the way to recovery.

The annual report was read by Lieut.-Col. Hewitt, Commandant. The term commenced on the 5th of February, and terminated that day. The total number of cadets was 93, divided into four classes. Seventeen candidates having passed the entrance examination in December, joined the College at the commencement of this term, the standard of education of these gentlemen continuing to show general improvement. Three cadets having failed to come up to the required standard of education of their respective terms, were withdrawn from the College, and two cadets had voluntarily retired on payment of the exemption fee of \$100. The first of the annual instead of semi-annual competitive examinations had been held during the present month of June, when 26 candidates presented themselves, and the successful ones will join the College in September next.

THE PRIZE LIST.

- A. B. Perry—Gold medal, general proficiency.
- D. McPherson—Silver medal, general proficiency.
- J. Spelman—Bronze medal, general proficiency.
- H. W. Keefer—Sword, conduct and discipline.