

The proposition to bring out fewer men per company is not, however, so unpopular as at first sight it might seem. Officers recognize the importance of more frequent trainings than they now receive, and though they would like to take out their corps full bodied on all occasions, yet most prefer to come out annually with the few, than biennially with the many, especially when they consider that the former is better for themselves as individuals.

Though an odd one here and there may object to my proposition, it will be found that those men who are worth considering, who, in fact, take interest in their work, and are anxious for real improvement rather than parade and show, will recognize the advantage afforded by it.

The discouragement which officers experience under the biennial system is very great; the encouragement which they would derive from a return to the annual system would give increased vitality to that portion of the body which only has vitality, and which only the country need at present consider.

As for cost, the great saving which this plan would effect in pay, rations, clothing, transport, etc., would I contend, enable the country to train annually the complete backbone of the militia, viz., the officers and N.C.O. of two battalions, where it only half trains one now.

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On the two chief points in the rural militia training we ought all to combine and fight the hardest, viz., 1st, "For annual training." When we have obtained that we should strike for the 2nd, viz., "At least three full weeks in camp."

So long as we go on as at present it is sheer waste of money. Neither the country nor militia are getting any good out of it.

More attention should also be paid to the training of the officers and non-commissioned officers. No man should be granted an R.S.I. certificate until he is "really" qualified to do his work. At present too often young men will "cram" for two or three weeks and fudge through. Consequently they quickly forget what they have learnt.

I saw some volunteers inspected last fall and the subalterns tested in giving detail of drill. Of four whom I saw thus examined I believe not one could answer without mistake, and consequently the official report upon them says they "evidently get little practice at drill." As a matter of fact, I know these young officers had only obtained their R.S.I. certificate shortly before having just finished their short course, the fault lay, therefore, not with their command-