

Militia and Defence.

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA.

From the Commandant, Royal Military College of Canada, to the President, Royal Military College of Canada.

KINGSTON, Ont., 2nd July, 1896.

SIR,—I have the honour to transmit herewith my annual report on the Royal Military College of Canada for the year ending 30th June, 1896.

I have, &c.,

D. R. CAMERON,
Commandant.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA.

30th June, 1896.

The warm interest taken in Canada and in the Royal Military College here by Her Majesty the Queen, has again been marked now by the bestowal, on the graduates, of a commission in Her Majesty's Indian Staff Corps.

Canada being represented in Her Majesty's Indian Forces by direct appointment will be generally and highly appreciated as an additional strand woven in the mighty bond of imperial federation under our beloved Queen.

Higher military education is an essential element in the constitution of the Dominion, as amongst any people aspiring to national greatness. This institution is its only nursery in Canada, and should command and receive patriotic support from all authorities and all Canadians who appreciate the value and dignity of what is implied by the words, "a British subject."

In this, the twentieth anniversary of the foundation of the institution, it can be shown that the important trust placed in the college, is being efficiently discharged by the personnel, and that the unprincipled system lately initiated, of casting contempt on our staff and students is discreditable and unpatriotic. Within a few weeks from the commencement of the session now being closed, there has been a scarcely interrupted series of attacks upon the Royal Military College, in some of the Canadian press and in Parliament.

It has been spread broadcast over the country, and communicated to even the British press, that discipline at the College is wanting, that the drill imparted here is antiquated, that the cadets are habitual drunkards, and that those who are now on the College Staff, Canadian gentlemen, civil and military, as well as officers of Her Majesty's regular forces, and the cadets in residence, are unworthy of belief.

These charges have reached a vast number of people who have either not had opportunity to hear their refutation, or who are not anxious to know the charges to be untrue.

To the hospitable residents of Kingston—who are personally familiar with the social and college life of those at this institution—it would be quite superfluous to offer evidence of the unfounded character of the attacks which have been indulged in; but, on an occasion such as the present when there are listeners from remote parts of Canada, the opportunity is not one to be lost for undoing, as far as may be, the great wrong which has been done to the cadets here, to their faithful instructors, and to the highly important national interests entrusted to them which they better understand and more highly appreciate than their ruthless and unjust detractors.