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AN OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION.

FOR some time past THE GAZETTE has been advocating the formation of an officers' association, so that the grievances of the force might be fully considered and a line of action laid down for having them rectified. It is only by such combination that the affairs will receive attention from the Government. As showing the good such an association is working in England and Scotland, we reproduce the following from The United Service Gazette:

"The special Army Order which was issued on Saturday, detailing the new and increased allowances to volunteer corps and volunteer officers, is recognized as an indication that careful and sympathetic consideration has been given by the authorities to the requirements of the volunteer force. The Institute of Volunteer Commanding Officers is regarded as having been a most valuable factor in bringing about the concessions now made. It is yet questioned whether the dearth of volunteer officers will be by any means entirely overcome by the 'outfit allowance'; but the conditions with which this is hedged meet with general approval as tending to increase the efficiency, and hence the status, of the volunteer officer. The various increased allowances are also expected to have a very beneficial effect."

The above results, brought about largely by the Institute of Commanding Officers,

should be followed by the like officers in this country. They have not got their grievance redressed at once, but as the constant drop wears away the stone, so have their constant petitions brought about many lasting and useful changes. There is no reason why the officers of the Canadian militia should not be up and doing.

GIVE THE NON-COMS. A CHANCE.

OFFICERS, when wanting to qualify at the various depots, can go up and have, in many cases, their certificates in from seven to fourteen days. This arrangement only holds good for officers. Could this not be made good also for non-coms? There are many non-commissioned officers in our city regiments who would be only too willing to take advantage of a seven or fourteen days' course at the different centres. It is quite a common talk amongst them that they have not the time to go for three months to any school. Could some arrangement not be made whereby those men could put in a short course? The vast majority of them would only be too glad to spend their holidays attached to some school, so that they might be able to have a certificate of efficiency. Their examinations are not so stiff as a commissioned officer's and surely when they can go through in seven days a non-com. could go through in fourteen. THE GAZETTE strongly urges this idea, for the benefits of such instruction would be lastingly felt in the different regiments. It is to be hoped that the Department will take the matter up and thus offer another inducement for our young men to qualify in the calling of a soldier.

CAVALRY REORGANIZATION.

The adoption of the 1896 cavalry drill should now be followed by a reorganization of the Canadian cavalry regiments. In the past the cavalry has been the most neglected arm of the service. The cavalry schools do not appear to have done as much for this arm as was expected of them. Still they have done something. Corps which have a number of officers and men who have passed through the schools are in a much more efficient condition than those which have not.

What we now need is to change the unit from a troop to a squadron. This will necessitate the increase in strength of some of the regiments. The 8th New Brunswick is the only complete regiment in the service.

TEETOTAL OFFICERS.

THE statement which appeared in The Witness stating that the officers of the 6th Hussars were total abstainers, drew from The Montreal Gazette's military editor the remark "that it would scarcely be of interest to the public what an officer's private habits or views are." We believe that a great deal depends upon what an officer's private life and habits are. It is a very essential thing that officers who are in charge of a body of men should be able to set them an example in all things towards the promotion of their welfare. An officer might be most efficient in his work, but still be lacking in that which commands respect. In volunteer regiments especially, where discipline cannot be enforced to the same extent as in the regulars, it is all the more necessary that examples of temperance and prudence should be shown by the officer commanding a company or troop. If an officer happens to forget himself, and the men see it, they very soon lose any respect for him, and his hold on them soon breaks down. One has only to look at the returns published by the Imperial Army Temperance Association to point to the good work done amongst the regulars in this direction. The Commander-in-Chief has always been much in favor of such institutions, and recognizes the fact that the more temperate a man's life is the better soldier will he make.

Parents very often object to their sons joining a military organization because they fear they may acquire bad habits, and we lose many a good man on this account. As Dean Carmichael pointed out in his sermon on May 24, there is less danger of a young man going astray in the militia than in any other organization, but some people have given us a bad name, and we should take extra precautions to live it down.

THE MEDICAL SERVICE.

RELATIVE rank has been abolished in the militia, and surgeons will in future hold substantive rank. They will be known as surgeon-lieutenant, surgeon-captain, surgeon-major and surgeon lieutenant-colonel. To Deputy Surgeon-Gen. Ryerson the thanks of the medical officers of the militia are due. For years he has been fighting for this change, and he has been continually "sat upon" by those in authority. One major-general told him in the presence of the staff at one of the