

place each year, and lasts ten days. The cadres commence their service four days before the troop. These courses are followed in turn by one or more of the squadrons or companies, either alone or with other arms. Every year there is a school cadre of six weeks for brigadiers and sous-officiers recently named, and for the first lieutenants proposed as captains. The preparatory schools for officers of dragoons and guides lasts sixty days. The sous-officiers proposed as officers take part during the second half. This school is held every year. The course of repetition for the dragoons and guides takes place separately. The *personnel* of instruction is the same for the dragoons and guides, and is composed of an instructor-in-chief, with the necessary number of instructors of the first and second class, and assistant instructors.

Artillery.—The instruction of the recruits of artillery lasts fifty-five days, that of the recruits of companies of artificers, and of the battalions of the train forty-two days. Besides the recruits the following are called to the school to form the cadres: The lieutenants proposed as captains, the lieutenants recently named, the sous-officiers and sous-officer workmen, drummers and trumpeters necessary. The course of repetition of the artillery is held every two years; those of the field batteries last eighteen days, those of the battalion of the train fourteen days, and those of the *unites* last sixteen days. These courses are held in regular turn, and are followed by one or several *unites* of troops, or joined with the course of repetition of other arms. The schools for sous-officers, which takes place every year, last five weeks. They are followed by the *appointés* and by the sous-officiers proposed for promotion. Special schools are held for sergeants. The necessary number of officers must also attend these schools. The preparatory school for officers is held every year, and is divided into two parts—the first lasting six weeks, and the second nine weeks. Sous-officers proposed for officers must be called to the second part of the school. Besides the regular annual schools, special courses may be organized. The *personnel* of instruction of artillery is composed of an instructor-in-chief, and of the necessary number of instructors of the first and second class and assistants.

Infantry.—The instruction of the infantry and of the carbiniers is given in eight *arrondissements*, and in such a manner that all the infantry of each of the divisions of the army are taught in the same *arrondissement*. At the head of the corps of instruction is placed an instructor-in-chief of the infantry, who controls the *personnel*. He superintends the central schools, and may also be charged with other branches of instruction. There is besides a special instructor for shooting practice. There is named for each *arrondissement* an instructor of *arrondissement*, to whom is joined the necessary number of instructors of first and second class, as well as the assistants for the special branches. Every year in each *arrondissement* there are the necessary number of schools for recruits, lasting forty days. Eight days before the opening of the schools for recruits, there is called for all this time a sufficient cadre composed of the officers and corporals recently named, and the non-commissioned officers who have been promoted. Every two years there are courses of repetition, during sixteen days, in which take part the battalions of infantry and carbiniers of each *arrondissement*. The batteries, regiments, brigades and divisions will each in their turn be called to them. These exercises are superintended by the commandants of the respective troops, with whom are joined the necessary staffs. Corps of troops of other arms can also be joined to them.

At the time of the manœuvres of division, the special arms which form part must attend. In the years when they have no other military service, the officers of company, the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of infantry and carbiniers of *élite* are obliged to take part in the firing exercises. The *écoles de tir* (schools for shooting) for the officers and non-commissioned officers of infantry and of carbiniers are held every year, and last four weeks. Officers and sous-officiers of other arms may be called to them. Every year in each *arrondissement* there is a preparatory school for officers lasting six weeks.

Genie.—The instruction of recruits of sappers, pontonniers, and pioneers lasts fifty days. To these schools are called the necessary cadets, and first:—The first-lieutenants proposed as captains, the lieutenants recently named; the sergeants, sergeant-major and fouriers newly named. The course of repetition of sappers, pontonniers, and pioneers are held every two years, and last sixteen days. The preparatory schools for officers are held every year, and last nine weeks. The sous-officiers proposed as officers are also called to these schools. The officers of *genie* attached to the staffs, as well as those charged with the technical works of defence, receive their instruction in a special technical military course, and are called besides to the general staff. The *personnel* of instruction of the *genie* is composed the same as that of the artillery.

Sanitary Troops.—The school for the recruits of sanitary troops (*infirmiers* and letter-carriers) lasts five weeks. The recruits receive previously, in a school of infantry, the necessary preparatory military instruction. Besides the *infirmiers* follow, after the schools of recruits, a course of three weeks in an hospital, to learn the practice. The sous-officiers of *infirmiers* and letter-carriers follow, during the time of their service in the *élite*, a course of sanitary instruction of three weeks. There are, every year courses of instruction of four weeks for the physicians and drug-gists proposed as medical officers. All the military physicians are bound to follow, during their time of service, at least one course of sanitary repetition of fourteen days. At the time of the repetition of great corps of troops (manœuvres of divisions, brigade, &c.,) there is called to the service a detachment of sanitary troops, which is taught by an officer

of the sanitary staff. The special instructor of the sanitary *personnel* is directed by an Instructor-in-chief, with whom are joined instructors of first and second class. Particular instructors teach the veterinary officers the special branches.

Troupes d'Administration.—The non-commissioned officers and soldiers proposed as *fouriers* of the *unites* of troops, and, as non-commissioned officers of the companies *d'administration*, attend a school for twenty-one days at least. The preparatory school for the officers lasts 35 days. The superior officers of this service (from the grade of captain) receive their instructions in the schools for officers lasting forty-two days, and in the course of repetition of twenty-eight days.

Central Schools.—Every year there is a course of instruction of six weeks for the subaltern officers of all the arms. The adjutants attend this school. The captains of infantry and carbiniers recently named attend the second central school, held every year and lasting six weeks. Every four years there is a course of instruction of fourteen days for the commandants of battalions of infantry and carbiniers (third central school). The lieutenant-colonels newly named receive in the fourth central school, which is held when required, an instruction of six weeks. The officers of other arms, of corresponding grades, may also be called to the second, third and fourth central schools.

It will be seen from the above communication that the cardinal principle of the Swiss system—worked out, of course, on an elaborate scale, and involving many other principles of great importance—is the thorough training of the young, making their military education in military matters a part of the duty of the common school teacher, and continuing the process until, and after they have passed the highest grades in the highest class seminaries. There cannot be the slightest doubt that in any country which desires a perfect military system the better plan is to commence to impart a knowledge of the use of arms as early as possible. There is not only the advantage that the pupil learns more aptly and perfectly while under tuition, but the impression left upon him is lasting, and a very short period in active service during his after life will be sufficient to enable him to renew his acquaintance with every movement as thoroughly as when that knowledge was originally gained. It is quite unnecessary, indeed, to use one word of argument in favour of beginning the training of the soldier at an early age, just as it would be to show the advantage of sending the young to school. To the general principle involved in the military training of the young there is a practical difficulty connected with giving it effect, should it ever be proposed to do, which seems to have been entirely overlooked. In Canada the administration of the laws relating to education is in the hands of the Government of the various Provinces and the Federal Government has no control over them whatever, except to see that the Provincial authorities do not overstep the bounds of the constitution. If to give Canada a good military standing had been a prime consideration in the confederation of British North America, it would unquestionably have been a grand mistake to permit the Provinces each to manage its own educational affairs, for then the Federal Government placed it beyond its own power to order military instruction to form a part of the exercises in the schools. Suffice it to say that confederation was not contemplated for the purpose of erecting a military power, and that the constitution renders the education of the young in the art of war at our common and high schools impossible without the consent of the Provincial authorities, which would certainly not be given in every instance, and would be subject to revocation at their pleasure. Even if every Province in the Dominion consented, however, the result would be that there would be reared, not a Federal but a Provincial soldiery, subject to Provincial control, and permeated with Provincial sympathies. The experience of the United States in regard to this very same subject should warn every State which values the stability of its internal unity and its safety from internecine struggles, from falling into such a trap.

We have referred to the Swiss system as superior to our own in so far as the perfection of its facilities for imparting instruction are concerned; it is also superior, because it provides that every man shall not only be trained to the use of arms, but, with certain exceptions, shall be compelled to use them should occasion require it. The application of that system to Canada being impracticable, if not indeed impossible, it is clear that the very best use has been made of the resources at the command of our Militia authorities. What with the supply of well-trained and thoroughly efficient graduates yearly turned out of our military schools, and the greater advantages which will in the course of time result from the establishment of a Canadian West Point, our Canadian militia will soon be officered better, perhaps, than any other similarly constituted force in the world. The annual drill will, as a consequence be attended in the future with far greater results than even at present, and it may be safely said, while there is undoubtedly room for still further improvement, that our system is about the best which the peculiarity of our circumstances will permit.—*Ottawa Free Press.*