

its soldiers, especially when they are a national army and not the product of one or two classes or strata of society. Perhaps the leading characteristic of all Canadians is self-reliance, a splendid military quality, especially in the rank and file during war, but capable of extreme development among the Officers of all volunteer forces even in peace.

Infantry.

The general characteristics of the population of great cities are much the same everywhere. They are more intelligent, but less robust, than the rural population; they readily acquire a military carriage, precision, and smartness in drill; their uniforms are better fitted, their arms and accoutrements in better order, and their comparatively wealthy Officers are willing to assist liberally in producing these results, which, after all, go some way towards real efficiency. But in a serious struggle the backbone of Canada would, I believe, be found in the rural battalions.

A very large proportion of the farming population engages in lumbering during the winter.

He who has lived among these genial stalwart lumbermen, shared their shanty and their bivouac in winter and in early spring, when they drive the logs along the icy torrents and head waters of their wooded wilderness, cannot but be impressed with the belief that he is among nature's soldiers of the very best type.

Be they English or French Canadian, there is not, I believe, finer stuff for soldiers among any population in the world, while the habits of organization and supply of the various lumber camps at the extremity of long lines of difficult communication are a Quartermaster-General's department in miniature. Again I must quote Sir Selby Smyth for the gist of the whole matter as to the difficulty of training such men under present conditions:—

"Fortunately for the country the battalions are commanded, and in general officered, by gentlemen of zealous patriotism and strong military proclivities, and in the various cities they have continued to assemble their men for unpaid drill as often as possible in the long and unoccupied winter evenings. Therefore city battalions and corps of all arms are in an efficient state, but country battalions are, owing to the absence of such opportunities and facilities, less so. However, they are fairly drilled too. They are fully armed, clothed, and equipped. They are proficient in the use of their rifles, being as a rule capital shots,¹ and a few weeks would suffice to place them creditably in line with any troops.

"The training of rural battalions at company head-quarters for three successive years has not resulted in much good. The majority of the men reside on farms at a distance from their company head-quarters, and when called on to drill they have to give up their day's

¹ Colonel Gzowski, by his energetic and liberal presidency of the Dominion Rifle Association, has contributed much to the shooting efficiency of the infantry of the Dominion.