



A REST AT THE BIG CAMP AT VALCARTIER.—CAMERADERS WAITING FOR TENTS TO BE ALLOTTED TO THEM.

touch of swaggering gallantry, an extreme handiness and resourcefulness, and a variety and splendour of expletive which made Tommy's monotonous oaths feel merely tame. They were perhaps the most popular men among the irregulars.

In all, Canada sent seven thousand men to South Africa, and her regiments, raised for the war, became permanent units of the Militia.

When Colonel Steele returned to the Dominion, he was given military command of the Canadian Plains. Up to last summer he had raised a dozen regiments, and added the departmental corps, so that he held a Lieutenant-General's command. In June I saw his troops in camp and at manoeuvres. They had an odd gait, that of civilians in uniform, civilians of the frontier with the feet straight forward as on wilderness trails,



Photo. Central News.

and the shoulder swing of axemen. They looked quaint in uniform, and yet at a second glance most formidably strong, most deeply tanned, stark as their grand-sires who fought the old campaigns of the eastern forests. And they *can* ride.

In the South African Field Force we were able to compare the men of all the Dominions with one another and with the Regulars. One fact stood out above all

others—the absolute veneration and love of all Colonials for Tommy. Compared with the real regular professional, we felt mere amateurs. We plundered the camps of rival Colonial units, we systematically robbed the second contingents of Yeomanry, and it is said one Colonial gang of robbers stole a hundred and eighty horses from a single contingent. But that last was a breach of the standing rule which