

into every land, who have made her name famous through the nations, who are the nation's pride in her hour of peril and her plaything in her hour of prosperity. These are the rank and file."

On the 5th we, who are civilians, had the honour of meeting men "who have carried the flag of England into every land," from 1839 to 1888, into China, Russia, New Zealand, India, Afghanistan, up to the nearest turning leading to the North Pole. Here is a small record of some of those present:

Colour-Sergt. Alex. Kay deserves first notice, being now over 80 years of age. He enlisted in the 13th Light Infantry on 20th January, 1825; served 24 years: throughout Afghanistan war from 1838 to 1842; present at the storming of Ghuznèe, 1838; siege of Toodendirah, storming of Julgher, engagement of Parwandirah, 1840; engagements in the passes between Cabool and Jellalabad, Khoord, Cabool, Tazzeen and Jugdullaugh, 1841; defence and general action of Jellalabad; engagements of Jugdullaugh and Tazzeen, and re-capture of Cabool, 1842. Has three medals, with clasps for Ghuznèe, 1838, Jellalabad, 1842, and Cabool, 1842.

From the artillery there were present: Gunner A. Martin, who was at Sevastopol and has also G. C. and L. S. medal; Sergt.-Major R. W. Purvis, served in Crimea, was with the two 18 prs. at Inkerman, has Crimean medal, Inkerman and Sevastopol clasps, Turkish medal and G. C. and L. S. medal. Samuel Gregg, Indian Mutiny, "Central Indian" clasp.

The engineers were represented by Sergt. William Brown, who has Crimean medal with Sevastopol clasp, Turkish medal and G. C. and S. S. medal.

The cavalry, so far as I know, were unrepresented except by Col. Joyce, late 13th Hussars, who served in the Crimea. There are in Toronto, however, two or three men who rode through in the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava; they were unfortunately unable to be present.

The majority of course, came from the infantry: Joseph Harper, bugler, 2nd 60th Rifles, Indian Mutiny medal. William Ellingsworth, 71st Highlanders; Charles Ellingsworth, 93rd Highlanders; served in the Crimea, has medal with Inkerman and Sevastopol clasps, also in Indian Mutiny, has medal with clasps for "Relief and taking of Lucknow" and "Delhi," was in 21 different engagements in India. Was presented to Her Majesty with two others from same regiment, as men who had never missed a day through illness, wounds, etc. He had, however, been wounded. Alexander Watson, 71st Highlanders, has East Indian medal, clasp "Umbeyla."

James B. Brown, 72nd Duke of Albany's Own Highlanders, has Crimean (Sevastopol clasp and Turkish medals, was present at both assaults on the Redan (wounded), also capture of Kinburn. John Mc-Millan, 47th Foot, Crimean (Alma, Inkerman and Sevastopol clasps) and Turkish medals. James Schiel, 84th Foot, served 21 years, Indian Mutiny, clasps for "Lucknow" and "Relief of Lucknow" also has good conduct medal. Alfred Smith, 52nd Light Infantry, served in Indian Mutiny, has "Delhi" clasp.

Alfred Burleigh, 30th Foot, also Military Train, served through the Crimean war; has three clasps, Alma, Inkerman and Sevastopol; Turkish medal; also served through Indian mutiny; has Lucknow clasp and good conduct medal. Thos. Tyler, 30th Foot, was also in the Crimea; has the two medals and three clasps. He is charged with being the father of the society. His son, George Tyler, was at the Crimea, being in the navy. Col.-Sergt. Shaw, 30th Foot, was also at Alma and Inkerman; was a prisoner in Russian camp; recommended for Victoria cross.

The blue jackets present were G. E. Ford, H.M.S. *Highflyer*; has Crimean and Turkish medals, Sevastopol clasp. R. W. Simmons, H.M.S. *Hornet*, took part in the war with China; has clasps "Fatshan 1857" and "Canton 1857," the largest boat action ever fought. Mr. Simmons is, I believe, the only person in Canada who has the honour of wearing this medal and clasps.

Of course there were others present wearing medals, but I was unable to interview the owners. John Nunn, the president of the society, served in "the Peacemakers." He says that although he wears no medals, he has "what is equally as good, a true soldier's heart." Probably this was one of the reasons he was elected to the position which he occupies.

One of the relics of bygone days shown during the evening was a medal with clasps for Toulouse, Orthes, Nive, Nivelles, Pyrenees, Vittoria, Salamanca, Corunna, Vimiera and Roleia, representing some of the engagements in which Richard Simmonds, sergeant 5th Foot, had taken part. TORONTO, 10th November, 1888. LINCH-PIN.

A Spanish general of Barcelona, it is said has bequeathed a million francs to found a refuge for the orphan daughters of poor officers, a provision being that each must be beautiful in face and form, "because the more beautiful a woman is the more she is exposed to danger in this world."

Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the militia.]

A Canadian Staff Corps.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE.—I have read with much interest Messrs. Foresight and Linchpin's criticism on my rough ideas of a Canadian Staff Corps, and though I have little hope of seeing the military organization of this country improved, yet a discussion on its needs cannot do harm, and, as you say, may do some good.

If your correspondent Foresight will kindly refer to the criticized article, he will see that I did not say that junior subs in the Imperial service are not expected to handle a troop or company, as the case may be, but that they are not expected to handle and command in barracks or the field a regiment of cavalry, or of infantry, or a battery, in fact to take the duty of a field officer.

At the inspection of the permanent corps by the officer commanding the militia, these young officers have to do this, or make believe to do so, with a skeleton; they have also to give thorough details for the same, and not only this but have to lecture officers qualifying for a first class, i. e. that of field officer; if the syllabus of instruction is looked up in the R. & O. this will be seen to be no mean task, and one which a cadet from Sandhurst, newly joined, would find impossible. So much for the juniors.

I suppose my critics never heard of a squad of cavalry, a sub-division of field artillery and a company of infantry doing duty together in one place. Linchpin laughs at the imagination and make believe of different movements of drill, but he who can drill a skeleton regiment, can do so much more easily when the actual members are there, any duffer could tell him that; but while imagination plays such a part, as it must do, in this by no means military country, why not add a few men, horses, and guns. Will they make it less real? Will not an insight into the details of these three arms be imparted?

Would these guns, cavalry and infantry be more useless for real work if stationed together? No! a thousand times no! but far better and of immense value, out of all numerical proportion, on a sudden emergency. Do my critics suppose I think that instruction is the sole aim of the permanent corps? If so, how account for A and B batteries R. C. A. and C Company I. S. C. in the Northwest. Their record is honourable enough!

Why call these corps Staff Corps? Are they not the staff or teachers, examples or whatever you like to call them, of the militia now? What are the duties of the staff but to guide and teach?

Here is an extract on this very subject from the pages of the *Army and Navy Gazette* of Oct. 20th, criticizing the want of knowledge on the part of the staff:—

"Regimental officers and men are very ready to learn, provided the staff will take the trouble to teach them. Passing through a college and afterwards sitting in an office chair will not train a staff officer for war's duties. If he wishes to learn what the latter will be, he must throw himself into practical outdoor work during peace, by accompanying them in their field duties; practice is wanted, * * there should be a series of manoeuvres * * starting with small beginnings and gradually leading up to larger fights; one or two companies should be pitted against each other, then two guns should be added to each side, then a troop of cavalry, until the forces are gradually increased."

Does not this bear out my ideas advocating the importance of a combination of the three arms? By all means add engineers, pontoon train complete, army service train, etc.; it is only a matter of expense, and I must confess that it *was* expense that I have been studying, but add them, and we shall be better prepared to protect the dominions of our Queen, should occasion arise, from our courteous neighbours to the south.

Do my critics think it an impossibility for an officer of infantry to visit cavalry and artillery stables on duty? That is exactly what I want done; let each arm have an insight into the other's work! But it is not the fusion of the three arms that I advocate, but that, if required, a cavalry officer could take a company, and an infantry officer a gun into action, or at least be able to properly direct such an operation. I am quite aware that the first cause of the being of our permanent corps is the protection of magazines and fortresses, etc., but do not my friends lose sight of the fact that they would thus be better protected.

Messrs. Linchpin and Foresight are really, I take it, agreed on the need of the military system of the country being improved, and the simple question is—would less instruction be obtained by the adoption of my plan or more? If it can be honestly proved, for the money, less; I am willing as the Yankees say to "take a back seat."

In conclusion, I do not for one moment contend that my rough ideas are perfect, but the sketch was written with a full understanding that the