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Notes and Comments

Get Ready.

Generosity to the Canadian militia is justice to Canada. All parties in the Dominion Parliament should uphold the truly national policy of encouraging the militia to grow in numbers and efficiency.

It is to be hoped that Canada may never have to fight. War is an unspeakable curse, and no Canadian wants war.

Readiness for war is sometimes the best way of ensuring peace. Five million people in the right with the open sea behind them, the enemy on the one side and the North Pole on the other, are unconquerable, no matter how many millions may come against them in the wrong.

The militia question is not a question of party politics, but of Canada's life, and Canada is rich enough to maintain a militia force great in numbers and efficiency, for defence, not defiance.

This in the *Toronto Telegram*—Liberal—gives promise of better things for Canada. At last the newspaper writers seem to have realized that an effective militia means something more than a brilliant gathering on inspection day—that it is a necessity before which party and cost yield to effectiveness. The best is essentially the cheapest when it is a case of placing the country in a state to sustain its national honor.

The efforts which are being made

to secure the re-entry of Colonel Walker Powell upon his duties as Adjutant-General, will be viewed with great and undisguised satisfaction by the members of the militia force. The gallant colonel is perfectly able to render many years service to his country yet, whatever may be attempted to be proved to the contrary by the certificate of his birth. Now that the force is to be accorded the recognition we have worked so unflinchingly it appears only fair that the man who has worked so long at Ottawa under the disadvantages of persistent official discouragement should be allowed to direct the details of re-organization which will have to be carried out. A reminder of the old adage about swapping horses while crossing the stream would appear to be very appropos in this connection.

It is sincerely to be hoped that the Government does not intend to act hastily in purchasing single-loading rifles for the re-armament of the infantry. We really consider this talk about the danger of trusting the complicated mechanism of magazine rifles in the care of the Canadian militia as almost an insult to the intelligence of the force. As a matter of fact how much more complicated is the mechanism of the Lee-Metford than the Martini-Metford or Martini-Enfield? We contend that as the fighting population of Canada is numerically inferior to that of our only possible invader, the United States, that we should attempt to make up for this inferiority by establishing a superiority in every other respect. We should have the very best equipment and armament for the militia that the world can provide. Certainly the magazine rifle is a more effective warlike weapon than the single-loader. Else why would all of the great powers of the world have adopted it? The single-loader may be as good a range rifle; it is, as a matter of fact. But the militia does not exist for the purpose of making holes in canvas targets at various ranges with a certain degree of exactitude. It is supposed to be a fighting machine to be pitted against targets that can fire back. If this return fire is more rapid, at the close ranges particularly, than that of the militia, so much the worse for our national defensive force in the next war.

It is very evident from the budget speech delivered in parliament the other day by the Hon. Geo. Foster, Minister of Finance, that the Government is in dead earnest in its militia policy, and it is also pretty evident that the opposition is disposed to accord the Government a fair measure of support provided the details of the scheme presented by the Government are reasonable. It would be well for members of the force to watch closely the development of the details and advise their members in parliament as the session proceeds, for, we regret to say, there is a woeful ignorance of the requirements of the service on the floor of the House.

There is something grotesque in the suggestions in the blue book about increasing the usefulness of the Royal Military College. We have always thought, and still think, that the government has a very simple means at hand for making the splendid institution more useful, by availing itself of a graduate of the college now and again for service in the permanent corps.

It is stated, on what we believe to be excellent authority, that the government intends to carry out our suggestion for the enrollment of the reserve militia, and it is even stated that the reserves will be drilled to a certain extent. This enrollment should have a fine moral effect, for it is just about time that some of our good people were reminded that every robust Canadian is eligible for military service. What an amount of satisfaction there would be in drilling a squad of those employees who regularly object to their men belonging to the active militia and always refuse to excuse them from work for special parades and drills?

Captain E. T. Taylor, Cheshire Regiment, has passed the final examination at the Staff College, and is thus qualified for employment on the staff. Captain Taylor, is the first graduate from the Royal Military College of Canada, to win such an honour. The following are now undergoing a course of study at the same college, viz: Captains G. M. Kirkpatrick, Royal Engineers; F. St. D. Skinner, Royal Sussex Regiment; H. F. Wise, Derbyshire Regiment, and will in the ordinary