

*Royal Military College, Kingston.*—This institution cost for the past year \$69,248 and your Commissioners, finding from the evidence of the Adjutant General and of the Major General that the number of cadets has materially decreased, would suggest the desirability of an enquiry to ascertain whether it might not be desirable, and in the interest of the country generally, to abolish the extra \$100 recently added to the annual fee payable by the cadets, and thereby to throw open the institution to a wider range of students throughout the country to whom its advantages would be more accessible under the original scale of fees. The same professional staff could attend equally well to one hundred as to sixty students, and it would seem to your Commissioners that a larger number of students, and consequently a larger number of graduates, would more fully meet the objects for which the institution was established, and the expenditure would accordingly be rendered more effective.

*Permanent Forces.*—Including A, B and C Batteries, Schools of Artillery, Cavalry and Infantry Schools. The expenditure for this purpose amounted last year to nearly \$460,000, the greater part of which is made up of the pay and allowances of the force. A very considerable portion, however, appears to have been expended on supplies and services of various kinds, and in connection therewith your Commissioners would again call attention to the recommendation already made by them, with regard to the adoption of a system whereby the non-perishable supplies could be purchased in a wholesale way, and at wholesale prices.

With regard to the cost of maintenance of the personnel of the batteries your Commissioners would call the attention of the Administration to the fact, as developed in the evidence of the Major General, that on the pay-list of the various military units were frequently found, in the course of his inspection, the names of civilians and others who had no connection with them whatever. The case of civilian caretakers at Quebec is instanced, whose pay aggregating some \$75 per month appeared on the monthly pay-list of B Battery. Your Commissioners would recommend that steps be taken to find out whether this system might not exist in some of the other schools.

#### MOUNTED POLICE.

The total cost of the North-West Mounted Police for 1890-91 amounted to \$740,000, which, assuming that the force consists of 1,000 men, would give an average of \$740 as the cost per man, for horse, rations, forage, &c., and your Commissioners find that this average cost has been decreasing year by year, and a further decrease is expected on the average cost for the current year. Probably it might in the near future be materially decreased. The expenditure appears to be directly supervised from Ottawa, where full and accurate records are kept to show the disposal of all stores and stock. Your Commissioners notice that the force is divided into 10 divisions with about 30 subdivisions, each division commanded by a superintendent and two inspectors, and that the men are scattered in small detachments throughout the various districts. Your Commissioners would suggest as a subject of enquiry, whether the system of placing the men in these small detachments could not gradually be done away with, and the force concentrated by degrees, thereby decreasing the number of men, and the expenses of the force generally. At the same time enquiry might be made whether a reserve, similar in system to the Naval Reserve in the mother country, might not be established in the Territories, consisting of paid-off members of the force, who must now amount to a considerable number, to be called out for annual drill and patrol purposes during the year, and to be available for duty when called upon. A further enquiry might also be made as to whether the force could not be reduced by the establishment of Municipalities in the Districts of the Territories, upon which should rest the carrying out of their own police arrangements.

If the idea suggested by the Commissioners for the appointment of a general supply agent for the whole service be not entertained, your Commissioners would suggest that an enquiry be held to see whether such agency could not advantageously be established in connection with the Mounted Police and the Indian services, as they notice that large amounts of the supplies of these two departments are common.