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No. 13, of 31st October, 1890.

Note and Comment.

In the matter of drill corps in connection with educational institutions, Quebec continues to show a commendable spirit of enterprise which might profitably be emulated in the other Provinces. When it was decided that the Militia Department should give assistance to these corps, in the shape of equipment and a grant for instruction, their total number for the whole Dominion was limited to seventy-four. Thirty-four were allotted to Ontario; twenty-four to Quebec; thirteen to the Maritime Provinces; two to Manitoba, and one to British Columbia. Quebec has not only taken full advantage of her allotment, but has already several corps in addition to the number authorized, this increase being allowed on account of the failure of Ontario to maintain the full quota named for that Province. There is no lack of military enthusiasm amongst the boys of Ontario, for in nearly every public school the elements of military drill are now taught and readily picked up by the boys; but there seems little disposition to provide uniforms, a requisite in order to obtain recognition by the Department. In Quebec, on the other hand, a great many of the educational institutions insist upon uniforms being worn for the ordinary classes, and the Department recognize any formally adopted college uniform as sufficient for drill purposes.

As will be seen from the report appearing elsewhere in this issue, the annual field day of the Toronto troops appears to have been the most successful yet held, and fortunately the expense involved had not the effect of spoiling the affair. It is pleasant to read of the cordial demonstrations made by the two great rival corps so handsomely supported by the Queen City, who seem to take the common sense view that there is plenty of room for both, and that whatever benefits one, at least indirectly tends to the advantage of the other also. The Thirteenth of Hamilton showed commendable enterprise in participating as a body, and a number of officers of other corps in the vicinity had themselves attached to the participating regiments so as to have the valuable experience of the field day. The secrecy preserved as to the battle ground did much to abate the friendly nuisance caused by a crowd of sight-seers.

Exception has been taken on behalf of the Prince Edward Island Garrison Artillery, winners of the recent shifting ordnance competition at the Island of Orleans, Quebec, to the published report of the subsequent competition held by permission at Halifax, between three batteries of the 1st Brigade, for second and third places. In the report the local

papers compared the times made at Halifax and Quebec, under totally different conditions, and praised the Halifax men for their seemingly superior performance. The comparison was unfortunate, but we are sure it was not made with any intention of doing injustice to the Islanders. Their fame as expert and efficient artillerymen is so well established that no one will be disposed to question their right to the first prize they secured at Orleans, or to take it for granted that had others there competed the result would have been different. There were five entries for the shifts—P. E. Island and Montreal one battery each, and Halifax three batteries. The first named completed the shifts in very good style and time, considering the adverse circumstances; Montreal, after commencing, abandoned the undertaking on account of the unfavourable conditions of weather and ground; and the Halifax batteries, after vainly waiting for two or three days for the weather to improve, had then to go home without a trial. Under the circumstances the second and third prizes would have been left with the Association had not application been made and permission granted for the three batteries to compete at home for these honours; but in doing this, and attempting to make the best showing possible, we are sure they had no desire to detract from the credit attaching to the performance of the Prince Edward Island Brigade.

Our correspondent "Nap" must not forget that, however excellent a plan it might be to have an officer of the Permanent Corps on the staff of the General Officer Commanding, the militia are not, by any means, without a well posted and keenly interested representative on the Headquarters Staff. We refer to Col. Walker Powell, the Adjutant-General, who has watched and very materially assisted in the growth of the force from infancy to its present proud proportions, and who may be relied upon to communicate to each successive Commandant the local knowledge necessary for the intelligent exercise of the duties of his office. Col. Powell's has been a labour of love, and no one could be more thoroughly posted concerning all the details of his charge than he has become by reason of his long years of zealous service.

The command of next Bisley team having been definitely located at least geographically, speculation is now being indulged in concerning the adjutancy—the prime qualification for which is, of course, intimate acquaintance with all that concerns rifle shooting and the conduct of large meetings. It may be taken for granted that having the command the Maritime Provinces will not this year look for the adjutancy; the extreme West had a share of the honours this year, when Col. Prior held the command, and the choice is thus narrowed down to Ontario and Quebec, with the important fact to bear in mind that Ontario had a turn this year, to say nothing of the additional circumstance that the prowess of her riflemen has given that Province no less than thirteen representatives on the shooting strength of next year's team. But this very circumstance may induce the argument that Ontario has thus won the right to recognition, against which, no doubt, would be placed the result of the inter-provincial match, in which Nova Scotia and Quebec were respectively first and second; and as Nova Scotia is to have the first