

As anticipated we have found that the men admitted to the fourth year laboured under very considerable difficulties and that among the others their success, or otherwise, could more or less be predicted from their performance at the Royal Military College. It is hardly to be expected that graduates who have been out of the College for a year or so and have returned, probably without much enthusiasm, to study, would do any better in our somewhat exacting courses. In correspondence with Sir Robert Falconer I found him of the same view. I have been told that these officers who have been sent to the Nova Scotia Technical College dislike intensely the idea of getting back to study after being out of college for a time.

So far as supervision is concerned, we could not, of course, undertake to exercise any more supervision over graduates of R.M.C. than we do over students coming from any other source. The young man in the Faculty of Engineering is preparing to assume considerable responsibilities at the end of his fourth year and we feel it wiser to treat him, at least during his two final years, as an independent agent able to stand on his own feet. It would seem to me if an officer after four years in the Royal Military College, fails because of the distractions in a city like Montreal it is just as well for you, as head of the Canadian Militia, to know it. You naturally would prefer to receive men in your organisation who can stand on their own two feet, and that is what we are trying to train them to do at this institution. I am almost willing to believe that men who fail because of distractions in their final year are scarcely worth saving. If you have to send them up to Kingston, where they can be tucked in by their old officers of the R.M.C. - well, I wonder! It is obvious that the officer commanding such a unit as the C.O.F.C. could hardly be expected to exercise command or supervision over these young men, so that no machinery exists by which they can be kept under constant observation and discipline.

Your point as to the courses of the Nova Scotia Technical College is certainly well taken. If other R.M.C. graduates find it quite sufficiently difficult to succeed by going direct from the Royal Military College into the last two years at McGill, it is evident that a student who spends some time at a military station and then goes on to an institution like the Nova Scotia Technical College, where matters are presented in perhaps a somewhat different manner, will be handicapped by being placed among those who had no interruption in their university work.

Your paragraph 5 raises two questions, the control over your officers exercised by the Officer Commanding of the C.O.F.C., and the success of the organization itself. Concerning the former I have already observed that it is obviously impossible for the O.C. of such a unit, whose entire days are otherwise occupied, to exercise effective command and control over these officers, moreover that would, I think, be impossible, and I am sure that it would be inadvisable, to establish a class of students requiring special supervision and attention on the part of the Faculty.