

or hesitation in obtaining a free grant of the Imperial guns to arm the promontory that would equally guard the Royal dockyard of Esquimalt and the Capital of British Columbia.

I am sorry it has not been possible for me to see much of the Cavalry this year, owing to the uncertain periods of drill, but this useful arm is in fairly good order for service, and the squadrons in general commanded by officers who have made a study of the service. Of all arms, Cavalry perhaps, have most to contend against in consequence of their horses being untrained to the ranks; but for outpost duty, patrols and the various detached duties upon which Cavalry would be employed in this country, they are as a rule admirably well adapted. Canadians ride well and are accustomed to horses from their early years; they are good horse-masters, and as they have proved themselves before, so I am confident they would again be a most useful force in the field, as the "eyes and ears" of an army.

Among many excellent Cavalry officers, I must take the opportunity of specially referring to Lieut.-Col. George T. Denison, the author of a treatise on Modern Cavalry, and who this year was fortunate enough to bring himself, and through him, the Militia of Canada into enviable notice by gaining the first prize of 5,000 roubles offered by the Government of Russia for the best "history of Cavalry from the earliest times." It cannot but be a source of much satisfaction that the prize, for this history compiled after much laborious research, though open to all nations should have been carried off by an officer of the Canadian Cavalry against all competitors, even though at last the number of competing officers was reduced to three, two of whom were foreigners.

The various saddlery and clothing stores that I inspected in the course of the year convinced me that the Government property in charge of this arm is carefully preserved. As a rule, they were in the best order; the leather and iron work properly cared for, and complete even to a buckle.

Before dismissing the subject, I must notice unfavourably the Ottawa Troop of Cavalry, which by right, from the conspicuous duties it has annually had to perform, ought to be a show troop. Having the honour of escorting His Excellency the Governor General upon the ceremonies of opening and closing the Houses of Parliament, and sometimes upon other occasions, this troop ought to have been one of the best equipped, mounted, officered and drilled; but I regret to say it has not been so in any of these qualifications since my experience of it. I have often looked with chagrin at the guerilla-like appearance this troop presented to the observant eyes of those assembled at the Parliament Houses, when forming His Excellency's mounted escort. I trust the District Staff will bestir themselves to convert this troop into what it should be, for hitherto it has been a very irregular body of horsemen.

Three companies of Engineers form a very useful arm of our Militia. Two of these at Montreal are good, but that at Toronto, commanded by Lieut.-Col. Scoble,