

a year, but if the government persists in its present stingy course, better to go to the personal expense than to go without the necessary training and its interesting experiences.

In Montreal the other evening a corps which is deserving of every encouragement held a jubilation. We refer to the Highland Cadets, organized several years ago by Major Lydon, the indefatigable Adjutant of the Royal Scots of Canada. This corps, which is composed of two splendid companies of strapping lads, has done more for the Montreal militia force since it has been organized than can be easily estimated. Most of the young kilties, when old enough, join one or the other of the city regiments and excellent soldiers they make, as the writer knows from personal experience. Not only are the lads all but perfect in their drill, but they are well grounded in all of the best qualities which go to make a good, enthusiastic, intelligent and neat soldier.

The corps practically turns over to the militia force every year twenty or thirty perfectly drilled and in every way desirable soldiers, and the country does not contribute one cent towards this training. The course of the government in refusing to assist in the maintenance of this excellent corps is mean, to almost a degree of dishonesty. The government would get excellent value for its money if it made a good round grant annually to this corps and any others of a similar organization and standard of excellence. The younger you catch your militiaman, the better soldier you can make him.

It looks as though the much vexed question of Imperial defence is likely to come ahead some of these days. The present system, or rather the lack of any system, appears to be proving unsatisfactory all around. A recent number of the *Naval and Military Record* remarked:—

"The question of colonial contribution to works of Imperial defence is continually being raised in some of our colonies. Recently in the Straits Settlement all of the unofficial members of the Legislative Council, the justices of the peace, and the resident members of the Chinese Advisory Board resigned their offices as a

protest against the decision of the Imperial Government with regard to the military contribution of the colony. A public meeting at Singapore enthusiastically supported the action of these officials. What the colony particularly objects to is that the civil expenses are restricted, and that what remains of colonial balances is to be devoted to military purposes. The amount estimated for the military establishment in 1889 was £136,000, but for the next five years it is to be £154,730 per annum. In the opinion of the colonists most of this expenditure is really an Imperial charge. They do not, they say, mind bearing a fair share of the cost of the maintenance of troops, but it is unfair to expect them to bear an excessive burden simply because Singapore is a coaling station. "We are quite willing," said one of the protesting colonists, "to pay for the cost of protecting our own trade; we are willing to assist, in conjunction with other colonies, in paying a just apportionment of our Imperial obligation; but we protest, as a gross injustice, against being called upon to pay for the protection of what is practically wholly and entirely the British commerce and trade which passes through these waters to other ports."

In our last issue, the lecture given by Capt. English before the Montreal Military Institute, was credited to Capt. Lee of the same college.

The official "Efficiency Report" is crowded out of this issue, but we will publish it in full in our next.

Militia Reform.

To the Editor *Canadian Military Gazette*:

DEAR SIR.—Suggestions for the improvement of the active militia are continually being made, but a policy of "do nothing," is the permanent condition of our military administration.

The general apathy exhibited in regard to the unsatisfactory condition of the rural battalions is truly lamentable.

The tendency to subordinate everything connected with the force to politics is productive too the most unsatisfactory results.

The fitness of a candidate to fill a vacant office is the least consideration; this may be seen in the short sighted policy of ignoring the highly qualified graduates of Kingston Military College.

Our Minister of Militia and Defence; instead of giving his whole and undivided attention to the duties of his department, devotes his time to political strife, stumping the country and speech making at every bye-election, when he should be sitting in his office.

To divert public censure, political expediency demands a "scape goat," so the General Officer Commanding is invariably held up for public condemnation.

It should be the function of the G.O.C. to propose and to execute, but it rests with the Minister to sanction or disallow.

It is well known to those behind the scenes how the G.O.C. is hampered in his efforts to promote the efficiency of his department.

THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE is deserving of the warmest support for its unprejudiced views on this subject and the able and impartial manner with which it continues to advocate the cause of militia reform.

Yours obediently,

I. R.

In an article upon the various activities connected with the work among the young people of St. George's parish, New York, which is given by the rector of the church, Rev. Dr. Rainsford, in "Harper's Young People" for January 12, we have an illustration of the Drill Corps connected with this church, as they appear marching through the streets of New York in uniform. It is another evidence of the extent to which military drill is pervading the country. A most useful purpose is served when the religious and sober-minded begin to understand the value of military training in the development of character. It is in this way that we shall conquer in a measure the prejudice against the army, which is the offspring of ignorance. There is a growing tendency toward the consolidation of conservative sentiment for defence against the rising tide of anarchy and disorder, and thoughtful students of our natural tendencies are coming to understand the value of the army and of military training.—*Army and Navy Journal*.

Fish Shooting in the West Indies.

"I took the big rifle to try my hand. It seemed ridiculously easy, but after missing three or four shots I began to recall my smattering of physics as to the refraction of rays of light passing through water. I proved a hopeless tyro, and finally with much humility asked my friend, who was chuckling over my chagrin, how to fire. 'A little away to the right,' he replied, and acting upon this advice I begged my next mullet. But he could not tell me any general laws, and I found from questioning him that he had finally learned to recognize from the look of the water how much allowance was necessary and in which direction to make it. I subsequently became a trifle more expert, and had several fine days, but I always had to try a few times first to get my hand in. It was easy to see which side one's bullet had struck by the direction in which the fish ran, and after a few trial shots one had a working formula. Even this, however, was very uncertain, for the angle and distance varied with the position of the sun, amount of light, depth of water, ripple, etc., till it seemed hopeless. That it was possible, however, Seymour proved conclusively, for he rarely missed, and his fish generally had a hole just behind the head. Still, where the light was bad we could often make a good bag and not a fish would have a mark, being nearly stunned by the concussion. To do this it is necessary that the ball should pass extremely close to the head."—HENRY WYDAM LANIER, *Outing for March*.