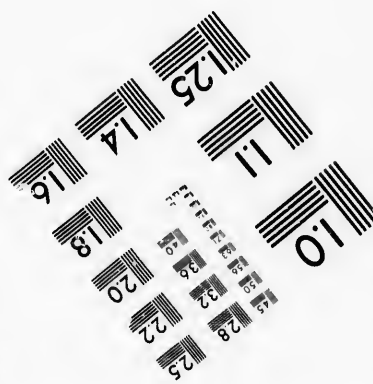
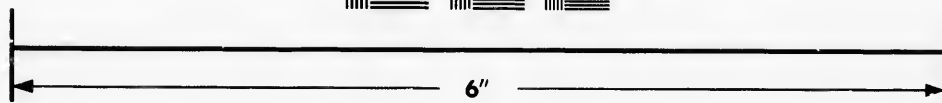
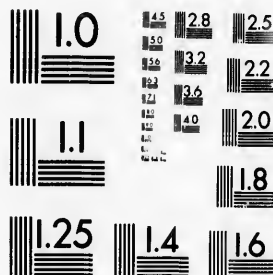


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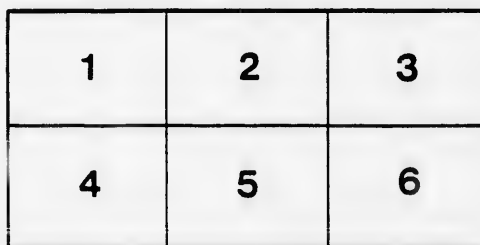
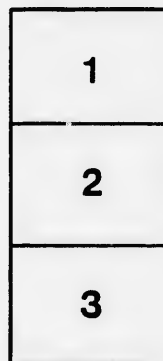
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1898

ADDRESS

BY

MAJOR-GENERAL HUTTON, C.B.
A.D.C. TO H.M. THE QUEEN; COMMANDING CANADIAN TROOPS

TO THE

DISTRICT OFFICERS COMMANDING

AND

COMMANDING OFFICERS OF REGIMENTS AND ADJUTANTS

AT

HIS FIRST INSPECTION OF THE MILITARY DISTRICTS OF THE DOM-
INION, Nos. 10 (WINNIPEG), 11 (BRITISH COLUMBIA) AND
12 (PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND), EXCEPTED

DURING

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, 1898

*NOTE—The Address is reprinted by request, from shorthand notes at Toronto and else-
where, but is practically identical with that delivered at each meeting of
Commanding Officers.*

MEETING OF COMMANDING OFFICERS.

Major-General Hutton commenced the proceedings in each of the Military Districts visited with an address as follows:—

I wish to express to you, gentlemen, how very much pleased I am to have this opportunity of meeting all the Commanding Officers who have been able to come in response to the summons given them by the Officer Commanding the District. The successful command of any army, such as we have in Canada and in other Colonies of the Empire, can only be insured by means of that personal touch which should bind all grades into one harmonious whole, thereby creating a tie which should bind the General, the Officers Commanding Districts, the Commanding Officers, and the junior officers into one body actuated by one single impulse. We shall, I think, arrive at the solution of local difficulties and troubles connected with the force generally, and your own individual corps in particular, so much easier by a few minutes conversation, and by making ourselves understood, one by the other, than we could hope to do by any amount of writing, or by any number of instructions, drafted, printed, and issued "By Order."

I need hardly say that becoming personally acquainted with the senior officers of the force, and having a personal knowledge of their requirements and wants, I shall be better able to advise the Minister and the Government upon all the military questions involved. It has always been my custom wherever I have been in command, whether in command of small units or of large, to take those under me into my confidence, so that in making changes or in issuing orders the opportunity may be given, *as far as circumstances will admit*, of a preliminary consideration and an intelligent knowledge being insured beforehand among those who have to carry out such orders.

It is impossible to command an army, certainly such as we have in Canada, "By Order," because no officer, however competent, sitting, we will say, at Ottawa, which is many hundreds almost thousands of miles away from some portions of the force, can under those circumstances enter into the ideas and feelings of the men who have to carry his wishes in letter and in principle.

I feel assured that the only way of arriving at a satisfactory solution of the many knotty little questions, or at any rate of getting the whole of our Canadian army to work harmoniously is by personal contact between myself as General, and the senior officers who have responsibility delegated to them in different parts of the Dominion. It is my earnest hope, so far as I shall be able to carry it out, to come at least once a year to every Military District and hold a council of the Commanding Officers with the Officer Commanding the Military District. Commanding Officers will be summoned accordingly to meet me, or in my absence an officer specially selected to represent me. If Commanding Officers, by reason of their civil obligations, are unable to obey the summons, they can ask leave from the Officer Commanding the Military District, and request permission for their next in command or a named officer to attend as their representative. After each Commanding Officers' meeting I propose in future to see each Commanding Officer in turn, in the presence of the Officers Commanding the District,

when he can bring to my notice any little trouble that he may have, any little question connected with his command which may occur to him, in fact I shall expect him to come primed with matters of that kind. You will thus be able to bring to my notice in a proper soldier-like manner, and through the proper channels, questions, which have sometimes found their way into the Militia Department through channels which are irregular and subversive of military discipline and good order.

In future, before the annual meeting of Commanding Officers, a printed Agenda paper of the points which I propose to have discussed with Commanding Officers will be circulated to those concerned. This will enable Commanding Officers to consider beforehand the points which are to be discussed. In this way Commanding Officers, who may perhaps see difficulties in carrying out in their individual regiments what may be to the advantage of the force generally, will have the opportunity of speaking before the other Commanding Officers and explaining the difficulties that occur to them. The views thus expressed will be of the greatest interest to myself, as General, and at the same time of possible advantage to other Commanding Officers.

The following are the Agenda for consideration on this occasion:—

I.—CONCENTRATION OF TROOPS AT CAMPS OF INSTRUCTION, 1899.

It is necessary to the efficiency of the force to concentrate the troops as much as possible, to bring together all the Cavalry Regiments, Field Artillery, and Rural Battalions of Infantry to some central place for their annual training at such time as may be consistent with local circumstances. The corps concerned can then be put through a connected course of training during their twelve days, of which the last two days of camp will be allotted to advanced instruction.

It has been remarked that up to this time the force has been kept too much in leading strings, and that too little has been asked from it. Experience will tell us that with troops of the kind we have here in the Dominion, the more you ask of them the more you will get. It is the greatest mistake in the world to restrict or curb the military instincts and aspirations of troops such as we have in Canada, to keep them, as it were, in military leading strings. It is far preferable to attempt too much than to attempt too little. The military instruction in Canada has hitherto gone very little beyond the A. B. C. stage of military training. The forming of small syllables, much less the reading intelligibly has hardly been attempted. I propose to push forward, to rely more upon the superior intelligence and aptitude of our men, and to take to a certain extent the elementary part as more or less familiar to our men. It is fair to say that with Canadians a knowledge of elementary drill is learned for the most part at school, and that a military instinct is in their childhood imbibed with their mother's milk. I am therefore anxious to utilize these qualities to the full, and to take a step in advance next year, and I propose to ask much of our troops. I am very anxious to get the metropolitan battalions, which carry out their preliminary training throughout the year at times convenient to themselves, to join their rural comrades for these last two days of advanced tactical training, even if the battalions are unable to come there in full strength.

Such concentration will give us, in each district, a considerable number of troops which will enable the instruction to be at once more interesting and more beneficial to officers and men generally.

2.—CENTRAL ARMOURIES.

We are on the point of having for general issue to the infantry Lee-Metford rifles and the new Oliver Equipment. The Lee-Enfield rifle as you are aware, is one which requires extreme care and attention. Unless these rifles are carefully cleaned immediately after being used with Cordit ammunition they deteriorate in a very rapid manner. I need hardly remind you of the enormous expense to the individuals and to the State which must result if due care is not observed.

The Oliver Equipment also is an equipment which requires extreme care in looking after. It consists of a number of straps, large and small, of brown leather, and unless these straps are kept in proper condition they will get hard, crack and break, so that before the equipment has been many years in use it will deteriorate and soon become unserviceable.

It will be interesting to know the views of gentlemen who command rural battalions as to the advantage or otherwise of central armouries, that is to say, armouries which would be hired or built in some convenient place, centrally situated as regards the different companies forming the battalions, where the rifles could be properly looked after and the equipment properly stored. I quite recognize, with reference to central armouries, that the system will entail a certain amount of difficulty. Companies will have to be brought in to receive their arms and equipment, but I think such a difficulty as that might be is more than balanced by the advantages we should derive in having the equipment and the rifles properly and efficiently looked after.

By adopting central armouries, the allowance for care of arms will necessarily be reduced and a smaller allowance only given to cover the expenses for custody of the clothing of the men, and perhaps for the waist belt.

3.—SYSTEM OF INSTRUCTION.

In my remarks with reference to the military instruction given to the troops, I shall allude more to rural battalions than to city battalions, because the latter have a considerable number of officers who are prepared from the highest motives of patriotism and military zeal to dive deeply into their pockets, to the great advantage of their regiments and the greater advantage of the State. In rural battalions the regimental resources under existing circumstances do not provide any satisfactory system of instruction during the limited number of days allowed by the State for the annual training. From what I have seen with my own eyes, from what I have heard, from what I infer, and from what I know from my experience elsewhere, the present system of instruction in Canada might be very much improved. Each battalion, during its annual training, should have allotted to it an officer and some non-commissioned officers, and men from one of the companies of permanent infantry. This principle applies equally to artillery and cavalry. A certain proportion, small of officers and larger of non-commissioned officers and men might be attached with the best advantage to each unit for the purpose of assisting officers in carrying out the routine of a camp, in the instruction of recruits and to be of use generally. In the case of cavalry, as I explained to the officers of the Cavalry Association recently, I propose that to every squadron there shall be attached from the Royal Canadian Dragoons, one senior non-commissioned officer and four non-commissioned officers or selected privates, viz., one to each troop. This would give five non-commissioned officers and privates of the permanent Dragoons to each full squadron. It would be their duty not to interfere with but to assist officers in carrying out the orders as regards stable management, camp routine and drill. The one trained man in the horse lines of each troop would be of the greatest possible assistance in helping the men to get

into the routine of stable work. With the field artillery the same principle will equally apply. I propose to take from the permanent batteries a commissioned officer and a few selected men, at least one to each subdivision, and distribute these permanent artillery men as specialists, as far as may be, among the militia field batteries during their annual training.

The instruction in drill and military duty has hitherto been carried out by Commanding Officers as best it may be. A certain allowance is given to Officers Commanding regiments, companies and squadrons which it is intended should be applied for instructional purposes. In some cases this sum has been exceeded, while in some cases it has been only partially allotted to the purposes for which it is intended. The allowance for instruction given to Officers Commanding regiments is at the rate of \$25 per squadron and company, and to Officers Commanding squadrons and companies \$40 per annum. To each Officer Commanding a field battery of artillery, \$200 per annum is allowed for purposes of instruction and of care of harness, guns and material.

The expenses to which Officers Commanding regiments, Officers Commanding companies and of squadrons are liable, are, I am well aware, very great, in some cases they exceed the sum which the above allowance amounts to. There are, however, instances in which this allowance has not been legitimately dispensed. I am of opinion that in the place of the present instruction allowance there should be a "Command Pay" allowance in the case of Officers Commanding regiments, and a "Company Contingent" in the case of Officers Commanding squadrons and companies. These two amounts should be assessed so as to cover incidental expenses connected with the command of regiments and command of the companies. The balance of the money now allowed for instruction, after deducting the amounts for "Command Pay" and for "Company Contingent" should be reserved exclusively for instructional purposes. The amount thus reserved should be directly under the control of the Officers Commanding Districts for its allotment, and these officers having at their disposal, through the Adjutant-General, the staff of instructors of the permanent units will arrange for the instruction which is required by the infantry regiments, squadrons of cavalry and field artillery of their districts. In other words, a revised distribution of the instruction allowance will be made.

4.—CLOTHING.

As regards uniform: The tunic is a garment, which, from my experience, is unsuited to such a force as that which we have in Canada. It is very expensive and has to last, by reason of its very expense, for a long time. The men are continually changing, perhaps thirty per cent of the men change every year. It therefore becomes almost a matter of impossibility to keep the men serviceable or suitably clothed in a tunic which has to last for five years, and which must of necessity change hands several times during its period of wear.

In the case of city corps, the tunic for smart occasions, might be retained. The abolition of the tunic is most desirable and the substitution of a red or green serge—a serge not cut too tight but fairly loose—meets our necessities more nearly. By good management and without much, if any, extra cost it might be arranged in place of the tunic to have two serges, one new and one part worn. Each man should thus possess one old serge that had been in use probably two or more years, and one new serge which would be practically new, and on which the facings would be bright, clean and smart. To make the new serge into full dress, I would propose either cord aiguillettes, the cord of which might be of the facings of the regiment, or light cords looped across the chest from one cord epaulette to

the other on the model of that adopted in the Egyptian army. The cord aiguillettes and the cord loops being detachable and being fastened only by strings to the cloth under the shoulder strap are easily removed when not required. The cord epaulette gives breadth to the man's shoulders, and is a very handsome addition to the uniform.

5.—BOOTS.

The question of providing boots is most important; many of the men come up for training with boots in which they could not possibly march ten miles. The difficulty might be modified in two ways:—

1. By providing men on joining who are badly booted with the Government/ammunition boots at a low contract price, charging the amount to their pay.

2. By an issue of boots to each man on joining at half the contract price, charging the same to his pay. Upon his rejoining the next year with the same boots in sound, serviceable order he might be re-credited with the half price charged to him during his first year. A soldier after serving two years, would thus become possessed of the boots in question.

6.—MESSING.

I desire to particularly emphasize the importance of a sound and good system of feeding troops. Good food, well cooked, respectably and comfortably served does more to promote contentment, and therefore increase discipline and military regularity than any system of drill or than any code of rules or regulations. Good messing, moreover, will immeasurably add to the popularity of the force and induce the best and most intelligent citizens to assume their obligations to the state as soldiers to a larger extent than under existing circumstances. By careful and economical management the expenditure on messing could be made to provide three good substantial meals for the men, large dining tent, tables, forms and plates. It should, moreover, provide extra pay for cooks. Camp kettles are regular articles of camp equipment. Knives, forks and spoons should undoubtedly be issued as a portion of the soldier's kit on enlistment. Shelter for the cooking places, of a uniform and military description, should be supplied.

I attach the greatest importance to providing a dining tent for the use of each regiment for which hire should be charged. By careful management the original outlay for these dining tents, which must be of a universal and authorized size and pattern, might be gradually defrayed from a sinking fund created from the balance of the messing money.

The system above indicated has been now very generally adopted in the yearly training of militia regiments in the United Kingdom.

N.B.—The Commanding Officers, at the termination of the above address, proceeded to discuss each subject separately. The details of the discussion were carefully recorded, and are to be found in the proceedings drawn up for each district.

HEADQUARTERS, OTTAWA, 15th Nov., 1898.

