

cording to their rank, position, and duties, without reference to the personality of the man. This is more easily learned where the soldier is brought into contact with soldiers of whom he knows nothing but their rank, position, and duties, except that they are honorable members of his own army, and as such are always worthy of the utmost confidence as soldiers, from a soldier. These things can only be learned by having large bodies of troops together under trusted and competent officers, and they must be learned or there is no real army. It is these feelings, felt to be so strong and so deep by the veteran comrades of many well-fought campaigns, that make old soldiers so confiding, so trusting, so partial to one another through all their after life. These things constitute the indispensable essence of the army; and without them there can be no army, no matter how many otherwise good soldiers there may be. It is only when these things are too much overlooked, undervalued, or misunderstood, and when too much relative importance is attached to the mechanical execution of the drills and ceremonies, that small camps are preferred to the largest possible.

In States where there is a well-organized National Guard, a commission might be appointed consisting of four or five officers selected from the National Guard, and as many more detailed from the regular army, including such professors of military science as might be serving in the colleges of the State. This commission might examine such officers and non-commissioned officers as desired to be examined and such as might be ordered before it, and grant diplomas showing attainments in

the various branches of military art and science. Such an institution to be of any value must have its expenses, including pay of officers who compose it and transportation and subsistence of officers attending it, paid by the State. In this event a healthy demand would be created for the service of such regular officers as could be secured from the army and the military colleges during the annual encampment, to conduct officers' schools and non-commissioned officers' schools, and to assist and coach the various officers in the discharge of their duties generally. It would not be well for any one to supersede commanders as the proper instructors of their own troops; but commanders would be glad to avail themselves of the assistance of better-informed men, and would be profited thereby. In this way the services of several officers of the regular army would be extremely profitable, if they could be obtained during the annual encampment of each brigade.

If something of the plan here suggested were gradually adopted, it would have a tendency to put many graduates of West Point and some ex-army officers with their technical knowledge into the National Guard, and some of the most military of the National Guard officers might find their way into the army, carrying with them their practical knowledge of the character of our volunteers. It would bind together in one bond of sympathetic union the Military Academy, the Army, and the National Guard, greatly strengthen the military power of the nation, and foster that sentiment so necessary in a republic of liberty governed by law.

*James Montgomery Rice,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Illinois National Guard.*

III.—COMMENT ON COLONEL RICE'S PAPER.

COLONEL RICE'S paper covers many points on which opinions naturally differ. It is a wholesome sign that so much attention is being paid by thoughtful men to the necessity of providing for our national defense by a more thorough organization of the militia of the several States, and it is from a comparison of their opinions that the best method is to be selected.

Wars nowadays are speedily decided, and a nation not prepared to protect itself will be conquered before it can organize and train its natural forces so as to render them effective. With our absurdly small regular army, it is to the National Guard of the various States alone that the country must look to supply the regimental and company officers who are to command the volunteers who are to protect it in time of war. No pains, therefore, should be spared to make their military education as thorough as is possible under the peculiar circumstances of their services.

The foundation of a military organization is disci-

pline. I do not think it possible to have in a militia regiment the rigid discipline of regulars. But while not carrying "class distinction" too far, it is perfectly possible to require the men, *when in uniform*, to conform to rigid rules in regard to the respect to be paid to their officers and to the forms of ceremony, etc., so as to impress upon them the maxim "that obedience to authority lies at the foundation of military efficiency." This is done regularly at the New York State Camp, and the better the regiment the more pride its members take in observing these matters.

The great point to insure obedience—and one upon which particular stress is laid by German authorities—is to impress upon the men that their officers will protect them from all unnecessary labor and danger; "for when the men know this they face hardship and danger uncomplainingly, knowing that it is inevitable." This involves, of necessity, that the officers should be taught how to care for their men; and here, therefore,

is where the National Guard officer is weak, because uninstructed.

I doubt whether it would be possible to throw open the doors of West Point as proposed, without injuring it. The cadets are now paid and supported by the country. If there were many more, it would cost too much. Besides, the present wholesome regulation which draws the officers of our army from every state and rank in life would be apt to be overthrown.

Any system, however, which would enable our youth and those National Guardsmen who are anxious to improve themselves in military matters to do so would be of great value. Military instructors in colleges, short-term service in army posts,—like the one-year volunteers of Germany,—would cost the country but little, and add greatly to its means of defense. It cannot be expected, however, that such men as compose our National Guard will enlist as privates in the army.

NEW YORK, July, 1888.

They would not like to associate with the men, nor would the influence upon them be good if they did.

Examinations and diplomas in the method suggested by Colonel Rice—anything, in fact, which will help the National Guardsman to fit himself for service without taking up more time than he can afford to devote—should be provided.

I cannot agree with Colonel Rice as to the value of large camps of instruction. They look imposing, but there is very apt to be too many “reviews” and ceremonies. A model camp should have as little show and as much hard work as possible. At the meetings of the United States National Guard Association the regimental officers all preferred regimental camps. The experience of New York shows, however, that there should be carefully selected instructors and inspectors to see that the prescribed work is done, and done properly.

George W. Wingate,

President National Guard Association of the United States.

IV.—OUR NATIONAL GUARD.

MALE citizens of the United States between eighteen and forty-five years of age are considered available for military duty, men holding State or Government positions, or certain religious beliefs, being exempt.

During the summer of 1887 twelve States and one Territory* had their guard inspected, while in camp, by United States army officers detailed for that purpose by the Secretary of War. The following extracts from the reports of some of these officers give an idea of the efficiency of the guard in general.

Colonel H. M. Black, United States Army Inspector Michigan N. G. :

The general appearance of the several regiments was excellent. All looked young, active, energetic, and healthy, and have in them the material to make as fine soldiers as could be found in any country.

Colonel E. S. Otis, United States Army Inspector Pennsylvania N. G. :

The men are young, of fine physique. . . . Its intelligence is of a high order; its organization is effective; its practical knowledge, considering its opportunities, very marked.

Colonel W. R. Shafter, United States Army Inspector Second Brigade California N. G. :

The conduct of the men while in camp was most excellent, their physical condition good, and it was apparent that the only thing necessary to make them first-class soldiers was the need for their services in actual warfare.

Edwin C. Mason, Acting Inspector-General, United States Army :

From my experience with the militia in years past, I was entirely unprepared to find the National Guard on such a high plane of discipline and general efficiency as I find that in the State of Iowa.

Colonel E. F. Townsend, United States Army Inspector Dakota N. G. :

It is an excellent body of men, full of zeal, and only requires to be directed rightly to make splendid soldiers.

* Alabama, California, Dakota, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont.

Adjutant-General Drum, United States Army (report to Secretary of War, 1887), calls attention to these reports as follows :

The reports, appended hereto, of the several inspecting officers are highly interesting and instructive. The steadily increasing interest manifested by the militia of the States is evidenced by the high percentage of attendance at the annual encampments and the general excellent military spirit of the troops. . . . Young officers of the army could be spared during the winter, to report to the adjutants-general of States, on application of the governors, to aid in the instruction of both officers and non-commissioned officers.

Whilst the reports referred to show that the *personnel* of the guard is all it should be, there are deficiencies to which these reports point—deficiencies which consist mainly in discipline, knowledge of guard duty, and equipments.

Whatever in the way of uniforms and equipments have been obtained were, until recently, issued by the State or purchased by the men themselves, but now the United States Government lends a helping hand by an annual appropriation of \$400,000 “in the way of equipments,” each State being allowed its *pro rata* proportion. Each State has its own uniform and button (a few States, having adopted the United States army uniform and retaining the State button, are exceptions). The guns in use vary, but the tendency now in this is to adopt the regulation United States army gun, and many States have already done so. The armament of the artillery, as a rule, is old ordnance and unfit for service. The Gatling gun now forms part of the armament of the artillery in California, Connecticut, Indiana, Ohio, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and perhaps other States.

The National Guard of the different States, if brought together, would present a variegated appearance as to uniform, arms, and general equipment.

The guard in each State is enlisted for service within the State only, and is under control of the governor, who by virtue of his office is commander-in-chief, and who appoints an administrative officer called the adjutant-