

128. On the moral side—the great side—of Cadet training I do not propose to touch. I have so often referred in speeches and addresses to the national advantage that must come from introducing the altruistic principle of comradeship as an antidote to the principles of throat-cutting engendered by competitive examinations, that I shall say no more on that subject here, except to express my own firm personal conviction that a finer or more patriotic piece of work was never put in hand than that which is now teaching the youth of this fortunate land to stand shoulder to shoulder in the ranks.

Summary.

129. To sum up, the army of to-day puts its best into its work ; it is well equipped ; well armed ; the human material is second to none in the world ; and it suffers as a fighting-machine only from want of field-work and want of an ingrained habit of discipline. The first of these can never, under the conditions of a Citizen Army, be quite made good, except by dint of war or by a period of embodiment made under stress of imminent peril ; the second can and will be made good as well-trained recruits come on, especially when captains are made entirely responsible for the instruction of their own trained men.

IAN HAMILTON, General,
Inspector-General of the Oversea Forces.