

royal family alone excepted—only by showing special qualifications for staff corps; and never, even in war, could a major get promoted to be a colonel without first having been a lieutenant colonel.

Field Marshals or the senior generals command an army, generals an army corps, lieutenant generals a division, major-generals a brigade; but it happens that an officer may obtain the higher command before he has made the corresponding steps in rank.

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.]

FROM BROCKVILLE.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

This town has improved very much during the past year; about forty new buildings have been erected and a large number repaired, but, notwithstanding this, there is not a vacant house to be procured. The large work shops of the Grand Trunk Railway, as well as freight sheds which were erected during the year, indicate the large increase of traffic at this station, which is, I believe, one of the second largest on the line. The large "Union Depot," which is in contemplation to be erected next summer, for the use of this road as well as the Brockville and Ottawa Railway, and which is estimated to cost about twenty thousand dollars has now apparently become necessary to make sufficient accommodation for the large number of passengers constantly arriving at and departing from this place, and which have been largely augmented by the connecting of Ottawa by the "Canada Central," and when the Morristown and Black River road is completed (the shortest route by ninety-six miles between Ottawa and New York city) a very large increase of passenger traffic, as well as shipment of sawn lumber from the north must naturally pass over this line. The contemplated Brockville and Westport Railway, which is to be pushed on at once, will be another artery to draw trade and travel here, and instead of the population of the town remaining at five or six thousand, it must, in the course of a few years reach to that of a Canadian city.

Lieut.-Colonel Skinner, Captain of the proposed Ontario team for Wimbledon, paid us a flying visit last Friday in order to ascertain what prospects there were for raising funds to assist in defraying the expenses. At his suggestion a meeting of the rifle club was called on Saturday evening at the Brigade Office, when a committee, consisting of non-members as well as members were appointed, and requested to use their influence and collect subscriptions in this section; I have no doubt a few hundred dollars will be raised.

Many Volunteers think that they should be provided with a waterproof sheet or an extra blanket during the annual encampments. Members of Parliament would do

well to vote the supplies for so necessary an object.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—As the new issue of clothing to the Volunteer Force will probably be made soon, as the five years which the uniforms are supposed to last will expire this summer, I would take the liberty of suggesting that the Militia Department should (as I think a former correspondent of the Review recommended) have the shoulder straps of the tunics marked with the numbers of the battalion to which they are to be issued, as is done in the regular army. Distinctions of this kind though they may appear trivial do a great deal towards creating an *esprit de corps* which should be encouraged in every way.

The facings of the new rifle tunic are, I think, too conspicuous, there being much more scarlet visible than in that of H.M. 60th. which it is supposed to imitate. This could easily be remedied by sewing a black braid on the collar and on each side of the shoulder strap.

It is to be hoped that the quality of the tunic will be as good as that of the last issue which is certainly a credit to the contractor, but it is unreasonable to expect clothing to last five years: four years is as long as it can be expected to be serviceable, and in case of active service a month of continuous service should be considered as equivalent to a year's wear.

Yours truly,

VOLUNTEER.

[The number of the Battalion on the shoulder strap was suggested by our esteemed correspondent "G.W." and undoubtedly would be an improvement.—Ed. Vol. Rev.]

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH.

On Wednesday the 15th inst. at three o'clock His Excellency the Governor General went to the Senate, and with the usual Stendant surroundings read the following speech—

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate;
Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

I have much satisfaction in meeting you at this, the usual and most convenient season of the year, and under the present auspicious circumstances of the country.

The hope I was sanguine enough to express at the close of the last Session, that no further attempt would be made to disturb our frontier was doomed to early disappointment. The Session had scarcely closed when lawless bands assembled within the United States in great numbers, and renewed the menace of invasion. They ventured to cross the border at two points, but were promptly met and repelled. So complete and humiliating was the repulse that the invader lost heart and hope, threw away quantities of arms, and fell back to encumber the villages in their rear with their starving and demoralized masses. Our Militia rallied at the first call to arms with praiseworthy alacrity, and the spirit which pervades the country swelled their numbers with Volunteers from all quarters. The gallantry displayed and the success achieved, have been

duly recognized by the highest military authority, and honored, in gratifying terms of appreciation, by Her Most Gracious Majesty. In maintaining the Militia on active duty the Government incurred an outlay to a considerable amount beyond what was provided by the votes last session. The accounts of the entire expenditure for the defence of the frontier will be laid before you, and I feel confident that you will pass a bill to indemnify the Government.

My anticipations of success in regard to the Act passed for the Government of Manitoba, and the North West Territories, and in regard to the Military Expedition, which it was necessary to despatch, have been fortunately realized. The troops surmounted the difficulties of the long and toilsome route with endurance and intelligence. They encountered no armed opposition, and their arrival at the Red River was cordially welcomed by the inhabitants. The people of the new Province have, under the Constitution accorded to them last year, assumed all the duties of self-government, and every appearance warrants the hope that they are entering steadily upon a career of peace and prosperity.

The Legislature of British Columbia has passed an Address to Her Majesty, praying for admission into the Union, on the terms and conditions therein stated. All the papers on this important subject will be submitted, and your earnest attention is invited to them. I hope you will think the terms are so fair as to justify you in passing a similar Address, so that the boundaries of Canada may, at an early day, be extended from the shores of the Atlantic Ocean on the one side, to the shores of the Pacific on the other.

Should such an address be adopted, it will be necessary for you to take steps to secure the early exploration and survey of a route for an Inter-oceanic railway with a view to its construction in accordance with the terms of Union.

The acquisition of the North West Territories throws upon the Government and Parliament of the Dominion the duty of promoting their early settlement by the encouragement of immigration. This duty can be best discharged by a liberal land policy, and by opening up communications through our own country to Manitoba. The means proposed for accomplishing these purposes will be submitted for your consideration.

Her Majesty's Government has decided upon referring the Fishery question, along with other questions pending between the two countries, to a Joint Commission to be named by Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States. On this Commission Canada will be represented. This mode of dealing with the various matters in controversy will, I trust, lead to their satisfactory adjustment. Canada urges no demand beyond those to which she is plainly entitled by Treaty and the law of nations. She has pushed no claim to an extreme assertion, and only sought to maintain the rights of her own people fairly and firmly, but in a friendly and considerate spirit and with all due respect to foreign powers and international obligations. The thanks of the country are due to the Admiral on the station and those under his command, for the valuable and efficient aid which they rendered to our cruisers during the past season in maintaining order and protecting the inshore Fisheries from encroachment.

The prospect of the adoption of International Currency seems, in the present state of Europe, to be so remote, that I recommend you to consider the propriety of as-