

power to report, or place under arrest for misconduct, any breach of discipline, was discussed in the House of Commons. From a clause in the Army Act it appears that an officer, no matter in what branch of the Service, is bound to exercise his authority.

The officers in the army are not a little disturbed over the fact that at present the authorities have under consideration minor alterations in the uniform of the army. No decision has yet been come to. The officers claim that they should, to a certain extent, be taken into the confidence of the authorities, or that a preliminary notice of change of uniform be given, so that regiments may not be put to the useless expense of securing articles that may shortly become abolished. It would appear as if the officers were to be recognized in this matter, for the Under Secretary of State gave his assurance that they would be taken into the confidence of the War Office so as to prevent loss to individuals. This tact on the part of the War Minister shows good judgment in his dealings with the army. The command of regiments is often denied officers for this same qualification, and it is, therefore, gratifying to note that those in high authority set a good example.

The proposed amendment to the Military Lands Act of 1892 will be looked upon with favor by the volunteer corps. It is proposed to give power to the Council of any county or burgh to borrow money from the Public Works, said borrowers to erect or enlarge any building for the use of volunteer corps.

The consideration of the Militia Bill will be watched with interest. It is proposed to call upon the Privy Council to state the number of militiamen to be drawn from the various counties in the United Kingdom. General officers commanding the military districts will be required to inform the Lord Lieutenants whether there is any deficiency in the establishment. Should the required number not come forward voluntarily, the Lord Lieutenant will have to acquaint the Privy Council before 1st September in each year, when he will be ordered to raise the requisite number by ballot. No person will be balloted for who is a peer of the realm, member of Parliament, member of any university, clergyman, or who is engaged in a regular calling, profession or employment. The Act is designed to operate against loafers and "tramps," and should it pass into law it will be interesting to watch how it will work with this class of the community.

A clause has been inserted in the Queen's Regulations and Orders for the Army that "officers above the rank of major who may be elected members of the House of Commons will be placed on half pay."

An increase of 771 men to the army is gained by the proposed changes of establishment. To each of the three infantry battalions serving in Nova Scotia, Ber-

muda and the West Indies, the proposed changes provide for the addition of 120 men, so that they may be brought up to the establishment of other home regiments serving in the colonies. An addition is also made to the Royal Malta Artillery.

The manufacture of the magazine rifle is proceeding very satisfactorily. By the end of the year it is expected that the trade companies will have delivered 205,000 of these rifles for the army. The ordnance factories up to the end of March, 1895, had supplied 307,000. The whole of the regular forces at home and abroad having now been supplied with the magazine rifles, and the necessary reserve being provided for, it has been decided to arm the volunteers with the magazine rifle. The Martini-Henry rifles which have already been provided with the .303 barrel will be used for reserve purposes.

Many of the old ranges are rendered unsafe on account of the increased range of the .303 rifle. For the acquisition of extended ranges it is proposed to provide a fund by the means of a loan to be asked for the furtherance of Imperial defence.

That a good feeling exists between the regular and volunteer officers is shown by the fact that a mixed committee from regular and volunteer officers are now considering the question of the transport of volunteers and mobilization during war.

The bicycle corps in the various volunteer regiments are taking a forward place. Col. E. Eyre-Williams, who acted as umpire in the night march of the Liverpool volunteers, in his report says: "With respect to the delivery of messages by cyclists, that as to parade states, the duty was performed with celerity and accuracy, and secondly, for the assembly of the commanding officers, that the messages were delivered and the instructions conveyed through them were correctly carried into effect."

July 14 has been appointed as the opening day of the Bisley meeting by the National Rifle Association.

## CHALLENGE FROM HONG KONG.

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., April 2.—At the annual meeting of the New Westminster Rifle Association, a challenge from the Hong Kong Battery, for a rifle match, received through Major Townley, was laid before the meeting and accepted. Details are not yet completed, but it is expected that the event will take place about the third week in this month. Office bearers appointed for the year are: President, his Honor Judge Bole, vice-presidents, the officers of No. 4 company 5th R.C.A.; sec-treasurer, H. A. Wilson; Executive Committee, R. Wilson, G. Turnbull, S. A. Fletcher, J. Chamberlin, and J. W. Buir.

## THEIR USEFULNESS GONE.

IT IS gratifying to notice how the newspapers all over the country are taking their key from THE MILITARY GAZETTE, and insisting on the necessary reforms in the administration of military affairs. The Quebec Telegraph had an editorial a few days ago that will be read with pleasure by members of the force. We cannot agree entirely with its views, though we reproduce. It is unfair to the present Minister and to some of the officials of the Department. Hon. Mr. Desjardins has been but a short time at the head of the Department. No fault can be found with any of his actions so far. His previous career as a politician and successful business man are all we can judge from, and if he administers the affairs of his Department as he has carried on his own business he will have the support of THE GAZETTE. There are some excellent officials now in the Department, but the majority of them are not only useless, but stand in the way of progress. Many changes must be made before the militia can be put on a proper footing. The Telegraph says:

Our cartridge factory, like everything else connected with the entire machinery of our military defence, is suffering from the dry rot which pervades the whole Militia Department at Ottawa. That Department, from the Minister downwards, is composed of a lot of antiquated old fogies, who may have been good men enough in their day, but who have served their time, and who should be relegated as soon as possible in the public interest to private life. These venerable fossils, who have little or no practical knowledge of the requirements of modern warfare, are as obstinate as mules, and have become so wedded to their old, obsolete, one-horse, red tape, easy-going ways that they are not only a nuisance, generally speaking, but a positive obstruction to the proper march of the business of the Department. They are, out of touch altogether with the progress and spirit of the age. They belong to the days of leather stocks and flint muskets and, when they are not engaged in drawing their fat salaries and scheming to keep better and younger men out of office or intriguing for promotion and positions for their relations and pets, they are devoting their powerful attention to economizing and cheeseparing at the expense of the efficiency of the Service, but never at their own, and generally to seeking to impede every one else, who desires to see our military service move ahead and not remain eternally stuck in the mud. But the best of the expensive joke upon the country is that the intense ignorance of these past numbers is palmed off upon it as experience, which it cannot dream of doing without and which it cannot pay too dearly for. They are, moreover, so conservative of their old ways and prejudices and so consequential and full of the sense of their own importance that the idea of reform or despatch in any respect is utterly abhorrent to them and no man dare to come between the wind and their dignity. In fact, they have established a regular system of official terrorism, which prevents their subordinates from exposing the frightful defects and shortcomings of their administration. We had a glimpse of this truth not long

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