

School of Artillery, Volunteer Artillery and Infantry, while the uniforms of no two of these corps are the same. There is no commanding officer of the garrison, the School of Artillery and Military College each having its own commandant; but these two commandants arrange with each other that the same order of dress shall be worn as far as possible. In the case of the cadets long boots are not worn on Sunday when it can be avoided.

A LETTER published to-day suggests, amongst other things, that there should be a greater number of outsiders, or a smaller proportion of Ottawa men, on the executive council of the D.R.A. We may say with regard to this that there used to be more from a distance, and the consequence was that often it was found impossible to secure a quorum. We know that the Ottawa men would gladly welcome any change that would relieve them from the great responsibility now imposed upon them, and we hope that this mention of the above criticism may be the means of suggesting to some member a scheme to remedy the defect, one which seems to us to be almost inseparable from any establishment with fixed headquarters. It should also be borne in mind that the Ottawa men, who are not so numerous as our correspondent states, are elected by various provinces, and usually correspond with members in those provinces and represent the opinions of their constituents rather than their individual preferences.

IMMEDIATELY after the D.R.A. prize meeting last year, Captain Kinnear wrote us criticizing the rules under which the meeting was conducted. As his letter was very much to the point, as no one has challenged a single statement, that he made, and as we heartily endorse his opinion and his conclusions, we reproduce the letter herewith for the consideration of the new D.R.A. Council, to be elected on the 4th. We would also direct attention to the letter in our correspondence columns to-day on kindred topics. Here is what Capt. Kinnear said:

SIR,—I have just returned home from our Canadian Wimbledon and wish to make a few remarks on the meeting. In the first place from the very start there was evidently a marked ignorance of the duties and of the rules of the association on the part of the great majority of the register keepers, markers and also, I am sorry to say, some of the range officers. I am going through the rules and will point out to you some of the blunders and breaking of rules that came under my own notice and that of some others of our men on whose story I could rely. Under the head of General Regulations, we find Sect. III, sub-Sect. *d* (dress). This rule was repeatedly broken through. Sect. V (inspection of rifles) of the same regulation was never once to my knowledge, or that of any one else, enforced at all. Now, I myself knew of several rifles which would not stand the test of pull. Sect. XIII of the same was a dead letter, as talking and coaching were continually indulged in. Sect. XIV (coaching) was a dead letter, as was also Sect. XVI (penalties). Under the head of Disallowance of Scores, Sect. *d* was often broken through. Under the head of Signalling, Sect. *f* was simply a dead letter, as no black disc was used at all. Misses were signalled with the ricochet bar which entirely misled many competitors, causing them to elevate their sights under the impression that the shot had gone low, whereas it may have gone high or on either side. Sect. 5. In a vast number of cases the signal disc was turned the wrong side out, and I know myself of two parties getting in one case seven more points and in the other four more points than they were entitled to. I stopped the register keeper several times from putting down the score signalled until the spotting disc came up showing the shot a different value from the signal disc. In all cases register keepers should delay marking the value of the shot signalled until the target comes up, but these men did not know any better, and one of them argued with me that he should put the value down as the signal disc showed it, no matter where the spotting disc appeared, until I got the range officer to convince him of his error. You may imagine how many mistakes there must have been made in this way. Under the head of military breechloaders, I would call attention again to the minimum pull of trigger.

Ammunition.—Sect. *a*.—Many of the competitors, and some of the most successful ones, used cartridges filled by themselves. If the ammunition was alike that would not matter, but Capt. Perley told me he had opened a large number and found the charge vary two to five grains in weight. One grain in his opinion being quite sufficient to give a man a very different shot, what a terrible difference four or five would make. I can put down at least twelve of my shots to the ammunition without any doubt, and at Sussex this year our shooting was simply abominable on that account. Now if we all had been notified of the fact that the cartridges were unevenly filled we could all have emptied and filled enough to put us through the shooting, in a short time, and I think that the results would have been very different in many cases.

Order of shooting.—This rule was not enforced at all as it ought to have been, and I would like to draw your attention to the spudding. We are supposed to do our shooting in pairs, each pair taking fifteen minutes. Many pairs, however, take a much longer time; others, again, are not on time, and consequently the shooting is delayed, and many competitors who are last on the list have to shoot, perhaps, twenty minutes or half an hour after their proper time, thus making it much harder for them.

Sect. 7.—Was broken through and I consider it a very important one. Sect. 9.—Applies to my previous remarks on the length of time taken by some of the men.

Now I am not making these remarks in a haggling spirit, or because I was particularly injured by the breaking of them in any way. I feel however, that among a large

number the impression was very strong that the whole meeting was conducted in a very loose way, and when we attend those matches, and some of us go a long way to do it, a strict enforcement of all the rules would meet with general satisfaction. We have the same rules here and they are strictly carried out, and also at Bedford. I am confident that any person inclined to roguery could have indulged in plenty of it at Ottawa without much fear of detection.

PRESSURE on our space has compelled us to hold over many communications from week to week as well as various news items. We hope our correspondents and subscribers will bear with us under the circumstances.

Personal.

The retirement of Lieut.-Col. J. M. Crawford from the command of the 3rd battalion Victoria rifles of Canada, which was gazetted last week, removes from the active list an esteemed and valued officer. Very few, if any, members of the Montreal brigade can boast of as long continuous service, his first commission, as ensign in the 11th battalion reserve militia, being dated 26th November, 1857; appointed lieutenant in same corps 2nd May, 1862. About this time he joined the active force, enlisting as private in No. 1 company of the Victoria rifles; was appointed ensign 20th October, 1864, and lieutenant 31st March, 1865, and in March of the following year was sent out to Lachine as senior subaltern of the service company furnished by the Victorias at that place to watch the canal, ferries, &c., during the threatened Fenian troubles; the detachment was on duty about a month. Was on active service with his regiment on the frontier in June, 1866, and in October of same year was promoted to be captain of No. 1 company, having taken a first-class V.B. certificate in the previous month. On 24th May, 1870, when the second and last Fenian raid took place, Capt. Crawford volunteered to take command of the service company from the Vics. which was sent out that afternoon to St. John's, pushed on to Stanbridge Station, marching at midnight to Stanbridge Village, and in the morning was hurried on to Eccles Hill on the frontier, and took part in the skirmish there, for which the name was permitted to be placed on the regimental colors. He received his brevet majority on 5th October, 1871, and rank of brevet lieutenant-colonel five years later, his commission as major bearing same date. On 3rd October, 1884, he succeeded Lieut.-Col. Whitehead in the command of the battalion, from which he now retires in favor of Major C. P. Davidson. Active militia service for twenty-five years, and participation in every regimental duty during that period, is Col. Crawford's record. Would that many more of our officers had a similar one.

Lieut.-Col. C. P. Davidson, the newly gazetted commanding officer of the Victoria Rifles, comes of a military family. His grandfather, Col. Davidson, commanded the Huntingdon volunteers, in which his father held a captaincy, and which formed part of the brigade under Major General Campbell. Col. Davidson, on the outbreak of the rebellion of 1837-8, was requested by Sir John Colborne to raise a regiment. He enrolled in Huntingdon about six hundred stalwart farmers, most of them immigrants, into a regiment known as the Huntingdon Frontier Volunteers. One company was stationed at Russeltown, one at Covey Hill and a third at Hemmingford. The regiment did good service and fought at St. Regis. The present Colonel Davidson was born in Huntingdon, educated at McGill, and adopted the legal profession, in which he has attained eminence, having been a Queen's counsel for many years past. He has always taken an active and prominent part in athletic exercises of every description, and has occupied the highest positions in the many city athletic associations. During the Trent affair in 1862 he was one of the first to enrol himself in the ranks of the newly formed Victoria rifles, of which he has continued a member, with the exception of a short interval, ever since. Seven years ago he was promoted major, and now succeeds to the command by seniority, on the retirement of Col. Crawford. We feel sure that with his great energy, activity, tact and popularity he will keep the Victorias up to their well-known state of efficiency and prove an unqualified success as a commanding officer. Col. Davidson has now in press a manual on the duties of officers and magistrates in relation to riots, which in consequence of the author's legal and military attainments will doubtless completely cover this somewhat difficult and always grave question.

Recent Deaths.

The death of Major-General Sir Richard Clement Moody, Royal Engineers, removes one whose name will long be remembered in British Columbia. So far back as 1858 the deceased officer, then Col. Moody, was selected for the appointment of chief commissioner of lands and works in British Columbia. Under his supervision New Westminster, then capital of British Columbia, was laid out, and Port Moody, the present western terminus of the Canadian Pacific railway, was named after him. He remained in British Columbia till December, 1863.