

camp ground, which would, in my opinion, effect a large saving to the Department, and would be acceptable to the militia of both districts. No doubt Kingston is the proper place for a permanent ground for the amalgamated Districts 3 and 4, and I still hope to see General Middleton's recommendation carried out and a permanent camp ground established in Kingston." Col. Van Straubenzee thinks it hardly fair that his districts receive so little assistance at camp from the schools, and that at least two instructors should be furnished from each school.

Lt.-Col. C. F. Houghton, D.A.G., reports a very satisfactory state of affairs existing in Military District No. 5, and states in detail the condition of each corps inspected. The following suggestive extracts will be of special interest to compilers of Musketry returns:—"The report of Musketry Instructor, Major C. W. Radiger, is herewith attached (marked Appendix "B"), from which it will be seen that there was a considerable improvement in the figure of merit of the brigade over that of 1888, when the same corps were in camp at Sherbrooke. I would call attention to that part of his report in which he refers to the insufficiency of the time allotted to position drill and target practice, in which I fully concur, as it is an absolute impossibility to teach a recruit who has probably never had a fire-arm in hand before to become even a moderate shot all in the space of one day, and by the expenditure of 20 rounds of ammunition at the ranges. I fully approve of his system of collecting all Practice Returns personally, before leaving the range, as the comparative figures of merit are in consequence much more reliable. I even think that this system might be applied with much advantage to all city corps, and that it would be in the interests of all that a paid Instructor be appointed by the Department to see that all class firing by companies or corps is carried out in strict accordance with regulations, as although the city corps produce many first-class marksmen from amongst those who take a particular interest in that branch of military training as a pastime, yet the great bulk of them are about as ignorant of the use of the rifle as are their more unsophisticated brothers-in-arms of the rural corps."

Lieut.-Col. G. d'Orsonnens, D. A. G. of District No. 6, notes a marked improvement in the force under his command, but in order that the progress may be maintained he thus advises: "I have again to bring to your notice and to recommend that the Officers, at least, be drilled every year (if one expects that they should retain what they have learnt at the Schools) and, when not drilling with their Corps, be formed into Companies representing the Corps exempted from Annual Drill and these into one administrative Battalion, with rank's pay and rations, thus keeping them all *au fait* annually. With their pay, the ordinary Camp rations and a serge blouse to drill with the rifle, I am sure everybody would be satisfied. With the continual change of drill and the rapid progress made in the military art, I consider it an absolute necessity that the Officers should drill every year. With a well-trained body of Officers the rank and file should be fit for any service. Should the objection of expenditure be raised, I would not hesitate for a moment to recommend that the money allowance of \$40 per annum for drill instruction be applied to that end, as every Officer would benefit by it." Colonel d'Orsonnens recommends the issue of greatcoats with detached capes, as the cape alone would be sufficient for a great part of the year; and in place of the issue of cloth tunics once in four years he recommends the issue of serge tunics one in three years—the term of enlistment. Touching the drill associations in schools, he recommends that the present system of gazetted officers in the Militia General Orders be discontinued, and that the Directors of the schools should be left to appoint at their discretion for the time being the best and most competent pupils. Surgeon Major Campbell, who was Principal Medical Officer of the

camp at St. Johns, draws particular attention to the defective water supply, and shows how pipes could be laid connecting the camp ground with the town water service at the barracks, with little expense.

Lieut.-Col. T. J. Duchesnay reports minutely upon the corps in No. 7 District, and makes a number of recommendations of local importance. Major A. A. Demers, Musketry Instructor at Levis camp, recommends that at least four, or more, competent Musketry Sergeants be appointed for each camp.

Lieut.-Col. Geo. J. Maunsell, D. A. G. of District No. 8, makes a strong plea for permanent camping grounds, for these obvious reasons: "(a.) The advantage and convenience of the Force are secured. (b.) There is ultimate saving of expense to the Department and to private individuals; the amount expended from year to year is for permanent, not temporary, improvement of grounds and rifle ranges. (c.) The fixed camping ground for the District becomes more and more suitable and attractive as time goes on and as improvements are made. As on a large scale, as in the case of Aldershot for the Force of England, or the Curragh for that of Ireland." Particular attention is paid to the subject of target practice, as follows: "The issue of ammunition to corps not ordered for paid drill, under regulations published in General Orders 31st July last, is undoubtedly a step in the right direction, and is a privilege that will be more and more appreciated as time goes on, if the necessity of biennial drill still unfortunately exists. I earnestly hope that this step will be followed by another equally important, viz: the granting of money prizes to the best shots of battalions and regiments as well as of troops, batteries and companies during the prescribed course of target practice. The money thus granted (not necessarily a large amount) would be well expended, for it would ensure that, which cannot be too often reverted to as a pressing want, viz: more efficient training in the use of the rifle individually and collectively in corps, where drill and discipline, preliminary training and practice, should go on side by side. Thus, and thus only will the Active Force of Canada, as a whole, become skilled in the use of the weapon with which armed." Col. Maunsell again directs attention to that *all important* suggestion and recommendation of the late Lieutenant-General in command as to some arrangement as regards retirements and pensions for officers of the staff of the Force, which he earnestly hopes may be acted upon. A noticeable feature of the report upon this district is the wholesome friendly criticism of the several corps—the weak points as well as the strong ones being commented upon.

In the report of the camp for No. 9 District the Musketry Instructor, Lt.-Col. Jas. D. Irving, says: "A new and good feature of this year's practice was the giving on the part of the Company Officers of the 69th Battalion of a few prizes for competition amongst their men. The effect was decidedly good, as was shown by the increased interest taken by the men in the shooting. It is to be hoped that the annual grants now given by the Government for the encouragement of rifle practice may be enlarged so as to allow competitive practice for prizes being carried out—by non-commissioned officers and men only—at the annual camps, and by that means reach a class who derive no encouragement from the present grants. I feel assured it would much increase the shooting qualities of the militia. The company officers attend at the ranges with their companies, and gave every attention and assistance in carrying out the practice."

Lt.-Col. H. V. Villiers, of No. 10 District, makes a plea for a camp for Manitoba. He says: "The different corps in this District have never yet been brought together in camp for training, and have no opportunity for that friendly rivalry with other companies which is allowed to the other Districts, or the advantages of training in camps under the superintendence of the officer commanding the