

IN THE HOUSE.

On the 31st ult., Mr. Cameron (Huron) asked: "Will the time served by volunteers during the rebellion (and who were settlers on homesteads in Manitoba and the N. W. Territories) be allowed as part of the time fixed by law for occupation of homesteads?" Hon. Mr. White (Cardwell) replied: "If the hon. gentleman means residence, I can answer the question in the affirmative. Instructions to that effect were issued to the commissioner and agents of dominion lands on the 7th August last, that is to say, the service in the North-west counts for one year's residence; but, in regard to the occupation of the land, the patent does not issue until three years after entry."

The same day Mr. Casey (by Mr. Trow) moved for "copies of instructions to Major Bell, Maj.-Gen. Laurie, S. L. Bedson and others, non-combatants employed during the North-west campaign, from the Minister of Militia, Maj.-Gen. Middleton, or the adjutant-gen. of Militia, and of correspondence between the last named authorities and such non-combatants." The motion was agreed to. Sir Adolphe stating that he would bring down what he had, but that there were no written instructions, telegrams simply having passed between the department and Maj.-Gen. Laurie on the matter.

On the 6th inst., on the item of \$41,200 for the militia department coming up, Sir R. Cartwright asked for explanations regarding the recent changes in the department, and was answered by the minister, who showed that the reduction was due to the decrease of one clerk salaried at \$1,300, and his being replaced by a lower grade clerk at a salary of \$750. A discussion followed on the rate of pay of junior clerks in the civil service generally, including the militia department, in which Sir R. Cartwright, Hon. Mr. Bowell and Sir A. P. Caron took part.

On the 7th inst. Mr. Mulock asked whether the Government proposed laying before the house the report of the Board of Officers appointed to investigate the working of the Quebec cartridge factory. Sir Adolphe Caron replied in the affirmative and said he hoped to lay it on the table in a few days.

Mr. Ives enquired whether the government intended to issue scrip to the members of the Rocky Mountain Rangers, who took part in the recent rebellion. Hon. Mr. White informed him that such was the intention of the government, and in fact, some scrip has already been issued, viz: 16 scrip notes, representing 1,280 acres, and also 15 land-warrants representing 4,800 acres.

Mr. Casey in moving for correspondence in possession of the Militia Department *re* the ammunition made at the Quebec cartridge factory, gave as his reason that complaints had reached him from many quarters in Ontario as to the inferior quality of the ammunition which was sent out for use in the North-west and also to rifle associations for their annual matches.

Sir Adolphe Caron in reply said "I have already stated in answer to a question put by an hon. member that the report which was the result of an investigation by a commission appointed by myself for the purpose of looking into the complaints which had been made in reference to some of the cartridges manufactured in the Quebec cartridge factory, would be brought down almost immediately. Some complaints, no doubt, had been made. The report which I shall bring down is a very elaborate and voluminous report. It is now being copied and within a couple of days, as I have said, I think we will be able to place it upon the table. However, I cannot allow to remain unanswered the hon. gentleman's statement in reference to the cartridges and ammunition sent out to the North-west. I looked into the matter very closely, and all the reports which we received from the commandants of the different corps, and from the major-gen. commanding the force, show that the ammunition which we served to our troops was as good as could be manufactured anywhere. Some of it was English and some of it was manufactured in Quebec. But the hon. gentleman must understand, if he has looked into the matter, that a cartridge may be very good for field purposes, and yet, from some error in the detail of the manufacturer, may not be quite as perfect as it should be, for rifle practice on a target. The difference can be very well understood. The cartridges have not been declared by anybody to be useless. Very far from it; yet the deviation from the line of fire has shown them not to be as perfect as they might be.

The same experience has been had in other countries, and in England, France, Germany and other countries, experiments are going on every day for the purpose of making ammunition as perfect as possible. I shall be very glad to bring down the report and correspondence, as well as the complaints which have been made.

The report will show that every possible latitude has been given in the investigation of complaints that have been made, and I think that the report, as a practical result of that commission, is a very

valuable one, because it points out the deficiencies which I have referred to, and will enable us, no doubt, to improve the manufacture of our cartridges, and make our ammunition as excellent as that of any other country.

Sir Richard Cartwright asked where the powder was made and Sir Adolphe Caron replied that it was made by the Hamilton Powder Co., and one of the complaints was against the powder, but he pointed out how inconvenient it would be to discuss the subject before the papers were brought down as technical terms are largely used and many of the questions are altogether scientific, the question having been referred to professors in the R. M. College and a staff of leading riflemen in Canada.

[No doubt the Hamilton Powder Co. will have something to say on the other side of this important question at a later day.—ED]

RUNNING A RURAL COMPANY.

DEAR SIR,—The publication of the GAZETTE has filled a long felt want, and is no doubt, to many besides myself, very welcome, with its budget of pleasant information and food for reflection in spare moments during the following week, but the many able articles which have hitherto appeared have made me seriously doubt a rustic like myself ever attaining anything like a proper knowledge of the duties of an officer.

Our opportunities for learning them practically are so very limited, as for instance when we go to our *biennial* camp we only just have learned when and how to go in order not to tread on our neighbors' toes, when it is time to go home. It is all very well to say go to the schools, but the schools could not take us all *if we should go*.

To a country officer commanding a company whose members are of necessity scattered over a large area, rendering it next to impossible to get them together for extra drills, the thing which most recommends itself during the long period of inaction is to get all the equipments, etc., into as good order as possible, and save as much work on the morning of assembly as he can, and to devise means for turning out his men as neat and clean as possible.

With a view to inviting discussion on these points, I beg to ask you for space in which to set forth some ideas which I have on the subject, and from the application of which I think I have derived considerable benefit in the appearance and *discipline* of my company, for in my humble way I endorse fully the opinion expressed by a high authority, that to make a good soldier you must make him take a pride in himself.

The discussion of such ideas can only result in good, and may be the means of carrying to others like myself information which we have no means of obtaining in an ordinary way.

For the sake of illustration I will take the case of an officer just appointed to the command of a company, and for the first time marching it to his own headquarters at the conclusion of an annual (or biennial) drill in camp, during which he has, of course, taken care to learn the exact name and place of occupation of each man, and other particulars as to height, chest, waist and leg measurement, size of cap, boots and any other things necessary to note in order to be able to fit out each man, at the next issue of clothing, without the scramble which I have seen on such an occasion. A common memorandum book ruled into columns headed first with "name," the next with "height," then "chest," and so on, with one column for residence, another for place of occupation, and one for date of joining, will show at a glance the complete history of a man, and be invaluable. This having been done, and the company ready for the final "dismiss," each man should be given a directed post card which he should be instructed to keep carefully, and by it convey to his captain any change of residence, etc. This will cost at the outside 42 cents; how much is even one man worth who might otherwise be lost sight of?

Then if not sure of each man and article check them in clothing list, which may be in the same book as mentioned above, and should be ruled into columns for name, and one for each of the following articles: tunic, pants, forage cap, overcoat, rifle, crossbelt, accoutrements, and a few blank which are nearly sure to be useful.

In each of the columns put the number of the article opposite the name of the man wearing it, and the next time the company is called out, no matter how urgent the call, the sergeants can issue to every man his own kit in a few minutes. Then, as a last word, tell the men that when they bring in the complete balance of their uniform they will receive their pay, *but not till then*.

It mostly occurs that the pay is received by the captain in large bills, which renders it a matter of difficulty to pay on the spot, and as he is pecuniarily responsible for the clothing he can not have a better