

tion of teaching, while the reputation of their commandant is sufficient guarantee of their own proficiency. The experience gained by this last company in the North-west will be invaluable to them in teaching internal economy, while the camping out of "A" company during the spring and summer will be of similar benefit in their case.

The Militia Department have just issued in neat pamphlet form a compilation of all the regulations for the schools of military instruction for the active militia. It contains all the paragraphs of the "Rules and Regulations" from 521 to 561 inclusive, with the various amendments that have from time to time appeared in general orders up to date. To this is added a syllabus of the several courses, giving a list of the subjects taught, and the full number of marks allotted to each, which we hope to reprint in full in future issues. In the meantime, candidates for admission to the schools can obtain copies of the regulations for the several school commandants.

Lieut. John Hearn, who graduated from the R.M.C. last year, and who is on the staff of the Quebec cartridge factory, has gone to Woolwich to take a "cartridge course" there. After his return to Canada we hope the authorities will see their way to sending him to study the operations of some of the large factories in the United States, where the process is so different that some hints should be got from a comparison of the different systems.

Now we have got the ball fairly opened for what promises to be a lively discussion on uniform. "Misty" is the apostle of one school, that which goes in for strict utilitarianism on service, "Grenade" of that order which advocates display in the fighting times of peace. And yet there need not necessarily be any conflict between the two sets of opinions. We are inclined to think that both are right in principle, and it is only in questions of detail that there is likely to be clashing. One remark of "Grenade's" we endorse heartily: that new official regulations are required, and that individual commanders should have less latitude in adopting variations that in the aggregate have had the effect of making our Canadian uniforms a very heterogeneous mixture.

We think "Grenade" is not quite fair in his strictures on the military tailors, for there are certainly some good ones in Canada, as witness our advertizing columns; and their rates can scarcely be termed excessive when it is borne in mind that they have to keep on hand a large stock of very expensive materials for a limited number of customers. In England, where officers are much more numerous, the prices may be more moderate, but one has always the dissatisfaction of not being certain of a good fit. Probably if officers were compelled to buy uniforms of a standard quality and pattern they would be forced to patronize our military tailors, who, in their turn, could then afford to reduce their present rates.

REFLECTIONS ON UNIFORM.

The Duke of Wellington once said that his greatest dandies were always his best soldiers, and Lord Wolseley says: "Make a man proud of himself and his corps and you can do anything with him." Now, if two of England's greatest generals so express themselves with regard to the dress of officers and men, there must certainly be something for military men to learn from the old adage that "the tailor makes the man," and the writer being one of those who firmly believes that dress is one of the principal elements which tend to make a serviceable and enthusiastic corps, speaking from a Canadian point of view, is emboldened to commit to paper for the benefit of the readers of the GAZETTE, some reflections on the uniform and dress of the officers of the Canadian Militia, in the hope that they may give rise to some discussions from which the force may receive benefit.

First of all, we want an authorized publication of Canadian Dress Regulations, which should be carefully compiled, and contain the most minute particulars of every article of uniform, and those corps which have any peculiar regulation should have it specified, and it should not be left to the fancy or whim of any commanding or other officer to wear or adopt anything which is not strictly according to regulation.

Secondly, as there are no *bona fide* practical military tailors in Canada, and as in order to obtain garments of the proper cut and pattern it is at present necessary to order from London firms, which always charge fancy prices, the Militia Department should employ practical tailors in London to provide uniform clothing at certain fixed rates, or competent military tailors should be established for each district, who would agree for certain fixed prices, to supply officers with requisites, the Government importing the materials, which they could do in quantities at greatly reduced figures; these firms should also keep always in stock a full supply of accoutrements of regulation pattern, which could also be purchased at lower prices, and likewise, saddlery and every requisite for a well appointed corps; if this were done, every officer would know at once what to get, where to go, and the cost of same, and those applying for commissions would be able, before sending in their applications, to "sit down and count the cost thereof."

Thirdly, while we are all members of one force, and have common interests and objects, the distinction between country corps and those existing in cities is very great, and either a great deal of latitude must be allowed the former, or there must be regulations applying only to them; the rural force perform their annual drill in camp, and probably are not required to again don their regimentals until their next drill, and therefore, all that is required of officers of country corps is that they should be properly and correctly dressed as officers, but a complete kit is not necessary and should not be insisted upon; say a blue or scarlet patrol jacket, white helmet or a forage cap, and proper accoutrements and saddlery, but all to be uniformly dressed and kept strictly to regulation. The officers of city corps are continually seen in cities while performing their annual drill, and besides these appearances in public are constantly required to attend guards, inspections, balls, levees, concerts, &c., and should, on those occasions, be dressed strictly according to regulations, and thereby obtain the respect not only of their men, but of the public generally, consequently these officers should be compelled to purchase a *complete outfit*, including winter uniform, which, at present, very few officers have.

Fourthly, is it not the fault of Deputy Adjutants General that the officers of their district are allowed to appear year after year wearing improper and incongruous uniform, and likewise the fault of commanding officers of corps, that their officers are not looked after in the same respect? The remarks in No. 30 of the GAZETTE, regarding the appearance of officers at camp in six of the military districts, are, from the writer's own personal knowledge, true also of three other districts, and under the eyes of the D.A.G., and not only are rural officers to blame for their slovenly appearance, but in more than one city of the Dominion have officers of city corps been seen on parade and in public, improperly and slovenly dressed; not only this, but officers have frequently been inspecting and finding fault with their men for appearing with dirty belts, buttons, &c., when *their own* gloves, belts and accoutrements were in a disgraceful state.

The question of uniform for the men is an important one, and one that can hardly be dealt with in a few words, but as the British Army have adopted a fighting kit and a parade uniform, Canada, no doubt, must do the same, but first let the Department endeavor to improve somewhat the present uniform of the militia; besides improving the utility of the present issue, let the men have something to give them a smarter appearance—an improved forage cap for instance—and let the sergeants be allowed to wear a better tunic with a little gold lace or other distinction, so that a non-com. will feel proud of himself, and if officers are particular in their dress the men are sure to be, though occasionally a careless man may have to be made an example of. These reflections would be incomplete if no mention were made of a winter head-dress, as suggested by the GAZETTE; the tuque would certainly do for active service or rough wear, but is hardly the thing for ordinary use; a fur cap with peak (gold for officers) and flaps to turn down over the ears and back of neck, and tied up when not so required is a neat and serviceable head-dress and looks well on any one. Accoutrements, &c., afford a fine scope for reflection, but too vast for this paper, and some of them would be only going over the same ground as covered by the admirable letters of "Misty," but if one could only have the Oliver equipment, at least for city corps, a great stride towards improvement would be made. If any dress regulations are to be issued, would not it be a good plan to ask for suggestions from officers of the municipal corps in the Dominion, so that when we do have them they would be really worthy of adoption and reference?

GRENADE.