

volunteer force is to become an efficient means of defence, the War Office should lose no time in giving our citizen soldiers every thing they require for campaigning."

Dr. A. Jarrett, the Assistant-Surgeon of the 13th Regiment of Brooklyn, visited the Drill Hall on Friday evening, and renewed his acquaintance with the officers' mess. He was heartily welcomed by all those who met the jolly Dr. on his former visit with his regiment.

After parade on Friday evening the newly furnished and decorated officers' mess room was thrown open for inspection. This work has been done under the direction of Major Moore and Capt. Stuart, and well they have acquitted themselves, the general opinion being that it could not have been better. It is very handsome and in the best of taste. The furniture is oak, the chairs being upholstered in green leather. The walls are covered with a brown and gold paper with a deep frieze to match, and a rich Melton carpet covers the floor. On the walls are large pictures of the officers who have commanded the regiment, beginning with Col. the Hon. Isaac Buchanan, then Col. Booker, Col. Skinner, and Col. the Hon. J. M. Gibson. Lord Wolseley has a conspicuous place on the wall, as also has the late Col. McKeand of the 90th, formerly a lieutenant in the 13th. A great deal of the regimental plate was burned in the old drill shed, but still there is enough left to make a very good showing. Among the ornaments is a valuable Japanese bronze vase, the gift of Capt. McKeand, 24th Regt., a former officer of the battalion.

H. A. M.

Toronto.

The second parade this season of the Queen's Own Rifles was held on Wednesday evening, the 9th inst. The regiment paraded 461 strong, including brass and bugle bands and ambulance corps, under command of Col. Hamilton, and marched to Wellington Street, where battalion drill was practised for an hour, returning home via Bay, King, Yonge, Adelaide and Church Streets.

Before dismissing the men, Col. Hamilton read a letter from Col. Allan, thanking the officers for leading the regiment past his residence last Wednesday evening, and congratulating one and all on their splendid appearance on that occasion. Col. Hamilton also referred to the prospect of deciding at the next weekly parade where the regiment will spend their next 24th May holiday. Invitations are in from Owen Sound, Berlin, Woodstock and Simcoe, and deputations from Berlin and Simcoe have waited upon Col. Hamilton, holding forth strong inducements to the regiment to visit their places.

These were contained in the orders of the evening: Corp. Porter, F. D., "D" Co., granted a sergeant's certificate; the following are confirmed in their rank as corporals: Acting Corp. Ayles, "H" Co., Acting Corps. Donaldson, W., Drynan, Gray & Evans, "I" Co. The officer commanding has been pleased to make the following promotions: "A" Co.—to be corps., Pte. McNeil, E. P., vice McNeil, D. D., promoted, and Pte. Meadows, vice O'Brien, discharged; "D" Co.—to be sergt., Corp. Porter, vice Jardine, discharged; "H" Co.—to be corps., Pte. Darley, W. J., and Pte. Walsh. The recruit classes will be continued hereafter on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings.

Immediately after the conclusion of spring drill, a class for non-commissioned officers, holding corporal's certificates, who desire to qualify as sergeants, will be held for a short time.

THE GRENADIERS.

The Grenadiers' Ambulance Corps has been increased to 20 men, and is now without doubt one of the best, if not the very best, in Canada.

At a meeting of the shooting men of the Grenadiers, they formed a rifle association, the membership of which is open to members of the regiment. They decided to call it the Cumberland Rifle Association, after the late Col. Cumberland, the first commander of the regiment. The following officers were elected: Honorary President, Lieut.-Col. Dawson; President, Staff-Sergt. Mitchell; Vice-President, Staff-Sergt. Curzon; Secretary-Treasurer, Pte. W. J. Urquhart. A committee was appointed to draft by-laws, etc., and the meeting adjourned to meet in two weeks.

Montreal.

It was mentioned in these columns that the Morris tube shooting had been interfered with by exhaustion of the ammunition supply. This unhappy state of affairs is at an end, Messrs. John Martin & Co., of St. Paul street, having received a supply, which no doubt will be eagerly drawn upon by their customers in Montreal and elsewhere.

"The Emperor of Germany has his faults, but his resolution to put down the practice of duelling merits the warmest praise," says *Figaro*. "The dullest man in the Fatherland understands what cashiering an officer means, and it may safely be concluded that the punishment which the Emperor proposes to inflict upon the challenger will have the effect of tamping out the duellists in the German army."

Correspondence.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.]

GREY OR SCARLET UNIFORMS.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—In view of the fact that some, interested in the Canadian militia, have advised the abandonment of the scarlet uniform, and as an argument for such a step referred to the volunteers of Great Britain, I think the following will be interesting. I copy it from *The People* (of Sunday, 9th March), a weekly London paper:

"The 3rd Volunteer Batt. Royal Fusiliers had a march out last night under its new commanding officer and its new designation. It still wears the grey uniform, but the Commander-in-Chief has notified his approbation of the adoption of the scarlet uniform and the Fusilier bearskin busby. Thus one more of the distinctive volunteer grey uniforms will shortly disappear to give place to the national colour, which is fast becoming that of the majority of volunteer battalions."

INFANTRY.

THE STATE OF THE MILITIA.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—It affords me much pleasure to observe on the part of several of your correspondents an awakening sense of the inefficiency of the present militia system. To anyone, even the merest tyro in military affairs, it must be apparent that we are pursuing a course which seems calculated to secure the greatest amount of inefficiency. The results obtained are utterly incommensurate with the annual expenditure; in fact the money is almost absolutely thrown away. We are all aware how difficult it is in the case of rural battalions to secure the necessary complement of men to go to camp, and that of those secured not over 15 per cent. have ever been out before; therefore it follows that the great majority of our men simply sink back into private life, forgetting what little they have ever learned. It would not be difficult to dilate at length upon this feature; it is hardly necessary, however, as the truth of what has been stated must be readily apparent to all who have ever had anything to do with the force. The question, then, before us is what can be done to render the force effective without largely increasing the expenditure. In a recent issue of your paper (which I have not now before me) one of your contributors makes some good suggestions, which if carried out would materially tend to the object in view, and a few remarks in furtherance of his scheme may not be out of place. The suggestion that instead of bringing out a full company of 42 men every second year as at present, we, instead, insist that the company officers, non-commissioned officers and men to the number of 11 or 12 shall go into camp at the school of instruction in their district every year, is a good one. It might be well to go a step further and insist that every company officer shall either qualify himself within a certain stated time or get out and make way for some one who will. It is needless to expect that a company can become efficient when the officers in charge know little if anything more than the men; far better that it should cease to exist than continue on in such a shape. Instead of paying him an annual drill allowance as at present, make it contingent upon his being qualified, and then let it be sufficient to reimburse him for the amount he has been called upon to expend in attaining proficiency. Let everything be done also to encourage non-com's and men to go up to the schools of instruction and obtain certificates, by making their pay up to such a figure as would not entail a loss to them when going to camp for annual instruction. As far as possible in their case, as in that of the officers, make the pay contingent on the possession of a certificate. The present company of 42 men is as a matter of fact but a skeleton company, and for instruction purposes 12 men would do equally well, that number being all that are required to perform the movements. By a system of mutual instruction every man would soon become proficient, and we would then have a nucleus by which we could bring the raw material into shape. When we have competent instructors in every corps, then, and not till then, can we look for any marked improvement. We have efficient military schools which are capable of doing what they were designed for. These, it seems, are not patronized as they should be, and steps should be at once taken to remedy this state of affairs. In No. 1 District there are, according to recent returns, some 130 unqualified officers, and no doubt the same proportion holds good as regards the others. As I have said before, if we cannot afford to spend more on our militia, let us by all means have fewer men, but let them be the very best. If the above suggestions were adopted it would mean a positive saving to the country and give us the means of putting a comparatively well disciplined force in the field, as in emergency the men to fill the companies to their full quota would be forthcoming, and we all know how fast they would learn if under competent instructors. Every captain should know where to put his hands on