

The committee appointed to select the garrison batteries from which competitors are to be chosen for the Shoeburyness detachment have arranged the following permanent roster, on the principle that affiliated brigades consisting of not less than five batteries will be selected first, to send one representative each; and then that these brigades and other independent batteries should have their places on the roster fixed by ballot. Batteries affiliating subsequently will have their names placed on the roster in succession, according to the date of their affiliation. The roster is as follows:—

Halifax Brigade,	} Five batteries each.	Yarmouth Battery,
Montreal Brigade,		Montreal Brigade,
New Brunswick Brigade,		Digby Battery,
Prince Edward Isl'd Brigade,		New Brunswick Brigade,
Toronto Battery,		Halifax Brigade,
No. 2 Battery, Quebec,		Cobourg Battery,
British Columbia Brigade,		No. 1 Battery, Levis,

This year one man will be taken from each of the four brigades, and one each from the first four on the battery roster. Next year one man will be selected from each of the four brigades, as before, and one from each of the next four on the battery roster, and so on. So far, this year, thirty-two garrison batteries have affiliated, which is the greatest number since the organization of the association.

Arrangements have been completed for celebrating the anniversary of the capture of Batoche by a dinner at Toronto on the 12th of May next, at which General Sir Frederick Middleton has signified his intention of being present. Officers wishing to participate, and the guests will not be confined to those who were present in the engagement, are requested to send in their names *at once* to Capt. C. Greville Harston, Secretary, 9 Toronto street, Toronto.

IN THE HOUSE.

On the 15th inst. Mr. Gault inquired of the government whether any militia regiments had made application for permission to visit Great Britain on the occasion of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Her Majesty's coronation, and, if so, whether it was the intention of the government to grant the request, when the regiments go at their own expense; and was answered by Sir Adolphe Caron, who said that the 5th Royal Scots had made application to visit Great Britain, but, as the Militia Act has no force outside Canada, the men of the battalion would not be subject to its provisions if taken outside the country, and it was, in consequence, thought advisable not to grant the request.

On the 19th inst. Dr. Sproule moved for a "return showing the names and number of those who acted as police scouts during the Northwest insurrection; also the names of those who have since applied for a land grant bounty for said services, the same as that given to the volunteers." In making the motion Dr. Sproule gave as his reasons that he thought a misunderstanding prevailed relative to the nature of the duties performed by the persons spoken of. They considered themselves in all respects on the same footing as the military scouts, and consequently entitled to the same land bounty. He said many of them were settlers who had taken up homesteads; they engaged in the dangerous work, supplied themselves with firearms and horses, and the wages they received did not compensate them any more than did the day's pay compensate the volunteers. He understood that the land grant bounties had been refused them and thought that the attention of the government ought to be called to the matter, when he felt sure they would see the reasonableness of their claim. Not only did they ask for the land grant, but that if it were given they should be allowed to turn it in on their pre-emptions. He spoke also in favor of their request that the time during which they were engaged in the service of the government be allowed them as part of the time they have to settle on their lands before getting their deeds. Mr. White (Cardwell) replied to the latter part of the remarks by saying that the time both of teamsters and scouts so engaged had been allowed to count on their homesteads as part of their term of residence.

On the 21st inst. Mr. Watson asked whether it was the intention of the government to extend the militia organization to the N. W. territories. If so, what strength, and the proportion of cavalry and infantry, and whether a D.A.G. and a B.M. with headquarters in the territories, would be appointed?

Sir Adolphe Caron replied, saying it was the intention of the government to extend the militia organization existing in the other provinces to the N. W. territories. The proposed strength and character of the new force, and the staff that will be required, had not been decided upon, and would depend to a great extent upon the population which goes into the territories.

SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION.

BY MAJOR J. PENNINGTON MACPHERSON, G. G. F. GUARDS.

The great interest evinced by your correspondents as to the means of obtaining the instruction necessary to qualify them for properly fulfilling their duties as officers of the active militia, is one of the most healthy signs of the times. Many opinions have been given and numerous schemes have been proposed, all having in view the one object of providing a cheap and easy means of obtaining the requisite knowledge. While many of the schemes present points worthy of consideration, it seems to me that all fall short of the great and undoubted advantages presented by the schools of instruction. There is no royal road to knowledge, and there is no other way for an officer to learn his duty except by downright hard study. If he knows nothing of his work he will find that three months at one of the schools is not by any means too long. If he cannot afford this time he can do a great deal at home and by previous preparation very materially shorten the period of his stay. A certificate can be obtained, by one possessing the necessary knowledge, after a residence of only seven days. This time every one can afford, and the difficulties of expense are got over by the government allowance of \$1 per day, and free transport. I do not think that the itinerant schools proposed by your correspondent "54" could be carried out. Except during the winter months the rural population are so briskly employed that they could not spare the six hours a day. This six hours would really mean the whole day, because although every battalion has its own headquarters, the companies of which it is composed are drawn from a very large surrounding district, and it would be necessary for officers either to take up their residence near the school or to drive a considerable distance each day. Take, for instance, the first rural battalion on the list, the 11th "Argenteuil Rangers," and we find that the company headquarters are at St. Andrews, West Gore, Morin Flats, Lachute, East Gore, Mille Isles, Carillon and Chatham. Or take "54th's" own battalion, and we find that the company headquarters are at Danville, Fladden, Richmond, Brompton, South Durham and Drummondville. How are the distances between these places to be annihilated? But supposing the thirst for knowledge to be so great that these difficulties would be overcome, that the necessary drill sheds are to be found at every point and that "the number attending would be such as to permit of battalion drill," where are the instructors to come from? It is no secret that one of the difficulties to be contended with, not only in the Canadian militia but in the British army, is the scarcity of properly qualified instructors. To at all carry out this scheme would require at least a dozen schools to be in operation at one time. Two instructors for each would do, only on the supposition that all those attending entered on the same date and progressed at the same rate. If new squads were taken in every fortnight or so, a dozen instructors for each school would not be too many to do the work properly. No man, be he ever so willing and competent, could teach a squad just entering and one more advanced at the same time; the one would either have to be unduly pushed on or the other evidently retarded. The result of such a system would be that the cost to the government per man would be increased and the knowledge obtained would be decreased. It is necessary to know something else beyond actual drill. To make a good officer or non-com. it is necessary to understand interior economy, military law and at least the first principles of tactics and strategy. These subjects could not be properly taught at an itinerant school. It could only be done at a permanent school where the principles laid down could be seen in daily practice. I do not at all agree with your editorial remarks "that the great majority of men turned out at the old military schools under the Imperial regiments were thoroughly instructed." I had the privilege of attending one of these schools and of obtaining a first-class certificate, and I think that they were deficient in everything except drill. The lectures on interior economy were delivered by non-coms. and men, and were rattled off at a rate no one could follow or take notes of, and were plentifully interspersed with marvellous yarns and anecdotes. I do not now remember any instruction in military law further than what could be gathered from one attendance at a court-martial. I have also had the privilege of spending some months at one of the present schools of instruction, and I must