

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR.—I notice in your last issue another letter from "Cadet," in which he calls me and your correspondent "Dragoon" narrow-minded in our interpretation of his letter.

In his first letter he proposes to establish so many "Military Schools"—this term has become synonymous with "Infantry Schools"—the others being distinctively called Cavalry and Artillery Schools. It was quite natural that I should think an infantry officer would be appointed Adjutant of an Infantry School, for I never for a moment supposed that a Cavalry officer would be placed in charge.

Independently of that, however, I was referring more particularly to a part of his first letter where he says: "3rd. The School to be under the superintendence of, and all certificates granted by, the Deputy Adjutant General of the District." I take it for granted these officers would not award certificates until they had previously examined the candidates.

Now here would be an Infantry officer examining Cavalry men, exactly what I complain of. I perfectly agree with "Cadet" that the offices that he proposes should be filled with deserving *Volunteer Officers*, but I must say if we are going to have a school let it be a Cavalry school or none at all.

Yours, &c., TROOPER.
25th March, 1869.

MILITARY SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR.—I am encouraged, by the favorable reception of my scheme for the re-establishment of Military Schools, as laid down in the Review of the 8th February last, to elaborate somewhat the crude ideas therein contained. I trust that I shall not be deemed presumptuous in so doing, as I am fully aware that material improvements may be suggested; but I am desirous of eliciting from your esteemed correspondents such hints and suggestions as will make the scheme worthy of consideration at headquarters.

The principles laid down in my letter of the 8th ultimo were:

- 1st. Permanent Military Schools for the Dominion.
- 2nd. Permanent staff for these schools.
- 3rd. Residence of cadets in barracks during course of instruction.

The number of schools required is a question for future consideration, but taking the basis of one school for each Province, I should figure the cost as follows:—It will be seen that the figures differ somewhat from the rough calculation formerly made, but the reason will explain itself, in the different manner in which I have made the the subjoined estimate:—

1 Superintendent of Schools. \$1,200 00
Staff for Four Provincial

Schools.....	10,000 00
Cost of Fuel and Light for do.....	\$2,000
Clothing.....	4,000
Practice Ammunition (including artillery..	2,000
Stationery, postage, etc.	800
	8,800 00
Gratuity on 600 certificates at \$50 each.....	30,000 00
	\$50,000 00
Wear and tear of barracks, furniture, bedding, etc...	1,000 00
Repairs of arms, stores, tackle, etc.....	1,000 00
	2,000 00
To this add, if required..	52,000 00
Expenses of Riding Schools, grooms, etc.....	\$2,000
Forage 48 horses, shoeing, medicine, etc...	6,000
	8,000 00
	\$60,000 00

The first cost of establishing these schools, in providing barrack accommodation, furniture and utensils, bedding, arms and stores for the different schools, with the current expenditure, would probably absorb the present grant (\$120,000) for the first year, but after the first expense nothing more would be required but the little repairs necessary, and which are provided for in the annual estimate of \$52,000.

I should propose the following scheme of interior economy in the schools for the maintenance of discipline, and routine:—

The Adjutant to act as commanding officer.

The Senior Instructor as Sergeant Major.
The Junior Instructor as Quartermaster Sergeant.

The Cavalry and Artillery Instructors in charge of stores and magazine.

The ordinary routine of barrack duty should be performed according to the routine of the Regular Service, except fatigues, pioneers' duties, or sentries.

On entering the school the cadets shall be told off into squads of ten, of which the senior cadet shall be the non-com. officer in charge. Cavalry and Artillery cadets to form separate squads. The senior cadet shall be responsible for the discipline of his squad. For each squad shall be provided an orderly man to perform fatigues, and to cook. The orderly shall be paid from the mess fund.

Mess stoppages not to exceed 40c per diem—shall be charged against each cadet during residence, and deducted from the amount of gratuity. Out of this amount all charges for rations, orderly men, and washing, bedding, etc., is to be defrayed. Stoppages for barrack damages and unfair usage shall also be charged against the man or squad incurring such charges.

Contracts for the supply of rations shall be entered into. These rations shall be inspected daily by the Commanding Officer, and issued to the orderly men by the Quartermaster Sergeant, who will charge the amount against the mess. Any addition to the fare of the mess may be provided by subscription among the cadets of the squad desiring such addition.

The Superintendent of Military Schools being answerable that a similar standard of education and examination is observed in the several schools, it would ill become me to lay down rules for his guidance; but I feel sure the experience of passed cadets will bear me out in saying that much of the interior economy now taught in the

Military Schools is useless to the volunteer. It matters very little to volunteers why drummers get an extra penny a day, or how often great coats are issued to soldiers of the regular army,—if they know sufficient of the routine of duty that it is necessary for them to carry out on actual service. Much of the time thus wasted could be profitably employed in other ways, and lectures by the Adjutant should bear more upon such duties as volunteers might be called upon to fulfil, than the technical subjects referred to.

The mornings being devoted to squad and company, and the afternoons to battalion drill—the ropes being held by the cadets themselves—a course of eight weeks should fully enable a cadet to pass the required examination for a Second Class Certificate; but those who did not obtain a certificate under the mentioned time should not be allowed to enter for a First Class Certificate.

The course of study I should advise for the different schools would be as follows:—

INFANTRY SCHOOL.

- 1st. Squads, company, and battalion drill.
- 2nd. The manual, platoon, and bayonet exercises.
- 3rd. Light infantry, guards, and picquets.
- 4th. Preliminary musketry instruction, including target practice.
- 5th. Interior economy, and daily routine of duty.
- 6th. Militia Act and Regulations respecting the Militia.

This course differs very slightly from the one already prescribed for the Infantry Schools; but the practical lessons in interior economy and routine being acquired by actual performance of the duties, would impress them on the mind far more than the study of the Queen's Regulations could do.

CAVALRY SCHOOL.

Though it would be desirable, doubtless, that a riding school should form a part of the establishment, I consider it by no means *sine qua non* in the formation of a sufficient school for cavalry. Considering that the operations of modern cavalry are more those of mounted infantry, and that the horse is only to be used as a means of transport from one place to another in a shorter space of time than the same distance could be accomplished on foot; it is only necessary that a mounted soldier should be able to retain his seat, and not that the regularity and precision of the cavalry position should be uniformly preserved. It must be remembered also that in the volunteer riding school the *vider*, and not the horse, is instructed. How far this would be useful to a Canadian cavalry man mounted on an untrained horse, remains to be proved,—but were I in his place I fear my feet would soon find their way home in the stirrups, and that I should prefer the familiar safety of the hunting seat, to the elegance of the proper position. While taking this view, however, I should by all means recommend that trained horses be procured for use in the cavalry schools, and that the ordinary riding school drill form a part of the curriculum. But supposing it to be impossible, I think that a course of instruction, embracing the following heads, would give sufficient occupation for the eight weeks' course, and that a proficient in the exercises named would deserve a certificate as a "Mounted Infantry," if not as a "Cavalry" soldier.

- 1st. Sword exercise, with singlestick practice.
- 2nd. Carbine drill, with ball practice.
- 3rd. Practice of field movements on foot, including skirmishing.