

The regiment paraded for battalion drill on the 26th. Arrangements had been made to go to the Moss Park rink, but it was reported to be too muddy. In consequence the band was sent to practice, and the companies spent the evening in company drill.

RANK AND PAY IN THE MILITIA.

Once before I called attention to the absurdities in the Militia Regulations, and amongst other things to which I alluded was relative rank. This confers no military status, but gives a right to choice of quarters. By the imperial regulations—which, according to one paragraph, we should follow, and which, according to another, we do not—a Quartermaster on appointment ranks as a Lieutenant; after 10 years' service on full pay, as a Captain.

Our Quartermasters on appointment rank as Captains and after 10 years' service as Majors. Just look at the pull which one of these Quartermasters has over a Lieutenant in a Permanent Corps.

Our Veterinary Surgeons commence as Lieutenants, and after five years they rank as Captains—further promotion is not provided. An Imperial Veterinary Surgeon ranks as a Lieutenant to commence with; a Veterinary Surgeon, 1st class, as a Captain, and after 10 years' service as such, as a Major; he may eventually wind up as a Principal Veterinary Surgeon, ranking with a Colonel.

Chaplains, for whom there is no rank laid down in Canada, would rank according to imperial custom, unless a question of pension should arise, when the whole thing would assume another aspect.

The pay for the militia is given in full in paragraphs 835 *et seq.*, and there we also find many peculiarities. In fact "what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander" is not adhered to. Whenever the militia or any part thereof is called out for active service, the officers and men shall be paid at such rates of daily pay as are paid to officers of the same relative and corresponding rank in H. M. service, or such other rates as may for the time being be fixed by the Governor-in-Council.

The pay of the permanent corps is greater than that of the militia; but the permanent corps are also at the same time part of the active militia. The ordinary pay of a Captain is \$3 per diem, a Lieut.-Colonel \$4, 2nd a Lieutenant \$2. When on active service, the Colonel draws 87 cents extra per diem to bring his pay equal to other Colonels in the militia—quite right. But the regulations do not say that the Militia Captain is to receive 18 cents additional daily pay to make his pay equal to the P. C. Captain, neither does the Militia Lieutenant draw 42 cents extra pay to get even with the P. C. Lieutenant.

I cannot for the life of me understand why a provisional Lieutenant in the permanent corps should draw \$2 per diem when on active service, whilst his brother officer in the militia, with all qualifications necessary for his rank, receives only \$1.58. That is "one of those things which nobody can understand."

Talking of pay and long course officers receiving only \$1 per diem, reminds me that these officers would do far better, from a money point of view, if they were appointed Pages to the Honourables Messieurs the Senators. Pages, one can hardly say require a special education, but the country, or at least somebody, appreciates their services so much that they receive 50 cents more pay per diem than a long course officer. However, I am very glad to hear that the services of militia Lieutenants are considered of so much importance that they receive exactly eight cents more a day than a Page.

ANOMALOUS POSITION OF PAYMASTERS.

The relative rank of a regimental Paymaster on appointment is Captain, his pay being \$3.05 per day, or \$1,113.25 per annum, should he happen to be on active service for that time. He is further allowed a Sergeant to assist him as Clerk.

In the District Staff, there is an officer appointed to perform the duties of District Paymaster, and who is at the same time Superintendent of Stores. The Paymaster's duties make him accountable for every payment made; all accounts for ordinary service are required to be sent to him before payment, each account has therefore to be checked over personally; he is not allowed to correspond with officers on pay matters except through the D. A. G., he has no clerk to carry on even this writing with the D. A. G., nor even with the Director of Stores; he has, further, should a Permanent Corps be in his district, to act as their Paymaster; this alone is tantamount to putting him on active service for the whole time. He also issues "Drill Instruction and Care of Arms" money.

As Superintendent of Stores, he is responsible for all clothing, stores and properties committed to his charge, and for their safe keeping, issue and disposition. He is further responsible for the magazines, ammunition, &c. He keeps a daily journal and a ledger, in which he enters everything received and issued by him, and with these entries he must be careful to state whether the articles received are new, serviceable or unserviceable, thus necessitating a personal inspection. At the end of every month, he must make a return to the Director of Stores, showing all receipts and issues. He has also to notify the D. A. G. of all "issues" made. He also attends Boards to inspect stores supplied by local contractors. He has further to attend twice a year Boards of Inspection of barrack stores, etc., of Permanent Corps. He should be stationed at Kingston to inspect, as a member of the Board, the barracks and stores of the Military College.

He has, in addition, to pay militia pensioners, and needless to say this causes extra correspondence. He attends the annual camps and looks after the distribution of the shekels there, but it is remarkable that whilst the D. A. G. and Brigade Major receive extra pay for attending these camps, the District Paymaster does not.

The District-Paymaster-Superintendent-of-Stores is probably the worst paid man in the whole militia. He is responsible for large sums of money and valuable property. He must be a good book-keeper and a careful and painstaking man, otherwise both financial and store account would get in a very muddled condition, and for these services, from the time he is taken on until the time he grows grey in the service, he receives the extravagant sum of \$600 per annum. True, they occasionally get a step in "honorary rank," which, I would remind you, no officer has a right to claim on account of any length of service, and although the regulations do not say so, this rank won't pay the butcher's bill nor feed the babies.

The pay of an Imperial Staff-Paymaster, the equivalent to our District Paymaster, is about \$2,000 per annum. So you will immediately see the great difference between the pay of Imperial and Canadian Paymasters.

NEED OF A SUPERANNUATION SYSTEM.

Pay is the amount of money awarded to a man for certain services, and ought to be such that a prudent man can leave sufficient behind him to enable his widow and children to live, for some time at least, in comfort. Should an age retiring clause exist, with no gratuity for services, one would naturally consider that the daily pay of officers and men would be high.

An Imperial Captain may, if he retires at the age of 40 years, receive retired pay at the rate of £200 per annum. We have a different way of doing things in Canada. We give as a rule 2 years' pay to the retiring officer. We will say that the sum he re-

ceives is \$4,000, which at 6 per cent. will bring him \$240 a year. He may, by delivering telegraph messages, bring his income up to \$500 per annum. I knew an officer—he was from the ranks, more credit to him—who occupied a military position bringing him \$1,200 per annum. When he became too old, his services were dispensed with, and a gratuity of \$2,000—*very handsome* for 23 years' service—was, after a hard fight, gained for him. But if this officer had retired from the imperial service, while he was still a non-commissioned officer, his yearly stipend would have been larger than that received by him as a commissioned officer from the Canadian government.

LINCH-PIN.

Montreal.

THE first outside parade and drill of the Victoria Rifles was held on Monday, 30th April, and brought out a good muster, the march from the armoury to the drill hall making a splendid appearance on the streets. Lieut.-Col. Henshaw, in command, having put the regiment through some battalion movements handed it over to Major Radiger for manual and firing, on completion of which Major Atkinson followed with double column and review exercise. The latter, which is down as a special feature in the coming inspection, will have attention at the regimental parades from date.

By a regimental order recruiting will cease on the 10th of May, by which date it is expected that those companies not now full will be, as some of the others are over strength.

The 4th spoon match, Series B, was shot on Saturday last, and Lieut. Desbarats was the winner with 44 points.

The bowling team, looking for new worlds to conquer, met with a Sedan in the alley of Le Club Canadiene where they found balls with finger holes in use and such as none of the team were accustomed to. The victors, however, soothed their feelings by handsomely entertaining them at the conclusion of the match, and a return match, on the armoury alleys, was arranged for 3rd May.

BUSBY.

Quebec.

THE galleries of the new drill hall were taxed to their utmost capacity on Friday evening the 27th April, with spectators, the ladies predominating, to witness the commanding officer's parade of the Eighth Royal Rifles. The regiment mustered 252 strong and looked the pink of perfection, both as regards neatness and soldierly bearing. Lieut.-Col. H. J. Miller made a close scrutiny of the pioneers, signal corps, bands and the six companies of the corps, and felt thoroughly satisfied with the appearance of the men. Afterwards they were put through the manual and firing exercise by Major J. Elton Prower and the sword exercise by Captain and Adjutant Ernest F. Wurtele. The various manoeuvres were executed with creditable precision. The band discoursed some choice music under the leadership of Mr. Vezina.

On Sunday the 29th April, the 8th Royal Rifles mustered in strong force at the drill hall and marched to St. Patrick's Church, headed by their pioneers, bands, and signal corps, etc., to attend grand mass. The men made a splendid appearance and large crowds of their friends lined the streets through which they passed both to and from the church to witness their parade.

Gleanings.

It is stated that the 76th regiment, now in Bermuda, will arrive in Halifax about May 1st, to replace the York and Lancaster, which will either go to Victoria, B.C., or be divided, half going to Barbadoes and half to Jamaica.

The Krupp works are now turning out a 150-ton gun; it is similar to the 120-ton guns, but is longer, and will have a much higher range. Among the large orders on hand is one from the Australian government for 150 heavy siege guns. It is said that the 120-ton Krupp gun built for the Italian government, but left at Essen when the others were sent to Italy, has been fired more than 200 times, and is still in good condition.

The Paris *Gaulois* states that this year, even should peace be preserved, the armies and navies of the principal states of the world will cost about 7,000,000,000, or \$1,400,000,000. It makes up its figures in the following way: Germany, army and navy, 914,000,000, and pensions, fortress funds and Spaudau treasure, 830,000,000; France, in all, 1,037,000,000; Russia, 1,014,739,986; Great Britain (England and India), 1,247,000,000; Austria, 326,361,626; Italy, 382,924,000; Spain, 202,915,000; Turkey, 128,851,700; Holland, 69,952,000, and other countries the balance between them.

It having been stated that the Thibetan troops in the Lingtu Fort were well armed with breech-loaders, the editor of the *London and China Telegraph* says: "It would be interesting to know the source of this information, for we have good authority for saying that they have no modern weapons whatever. A few old Chinese ginsangs may be found among them; but beyond these we believe they are armed only with spears, lances, and bows and arrows. This is what would be expected by any one knowing how remote Thibet is, and how comparatively few of even the Chinese troops have breech-loaders; our information, however, makes it quite certain that the case is as we have here stated it."

People have forgotten the nature of the service asked of and obtained from their soldiers. Let the reader think for a moment what sacrifices would be involved if he, now reading this magazine comfortably by his winter fireside, should feel it to have become his duty to drop his business wholly; to say good-bye to his wife and children, knowing the grave risks that he would never see them again upon earth; to leave his pleasures and home comforts, don a private soldier's uniform, submit to rigorous physical discipline, march by night and by day, be houseless in rain and snow often sleeping without shelter under a pouring sky; to live on the coarsest fare always, and frequently have an insufficient supply of that; to be posted as a picket by day and night in pestilential swamps and bottom lands, to risk the imminent peril of losing health and accepting the tender mercies of a field hospital; to enter upon campaign, skirmish, battle, day after day to see comrades drop down one by one; to take the chances of shell and bullet, of torture in a prison pen, and of death by any of these means—imagine all this, and then say whether he would consider that his country had redeemed a pledge of "eternal gratitude" as soon as it had paid him the princely sum of \$192 a year for this service! There is no need of rhetoric. This possible experience is what hundreds of thousands of our brave boys actually endured. There is not a dash of added sombreness to the colouring. Here, then, is precisely the question that is pleading for settlement at the hands of the American people of to-day.

—Col. E. H. Ropes, in *American Magazine*.