

The allotment of marks to the Cavalry varies more even than to the Infantry. The King's Canadian Hussars of King's Co. N.S., are away ahead of all others with 130 points to their credit, the Winnipeg Dragoons coming next with 98, tying the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards of Ottawa. The 8th "Princess Louise" Hussars of New Brunswick follow closely with 93½ and the figures then drop off gradually to 54¾ which is gained by a corps that everyone expected would have taken a far higher rank in the competition.

The Quebec Border Corps.

The low percentage of marks obtained by the rural corps stationed along the frontier in the Province of Quebec is not particularly reassuring when we consider that on them a great deal would depend in the case of a sudden invasion of the Province in the direction of Montreal or Quebec. The 58th Battalion, of Megantic, ranks highest of the whole nine battalions concerned and its marks are only 52 1-5; the figures then drop rapidly downwards to 23 1-4 which is the total allotment to the 60th Battalion of Missisquoi, a six company regiment stationed close to the border and on whom fell a great deal of the brunt of the last Fenian Raid. It is evident that special attention to these corps during the coming summer is necessary. It must be remembered, however, that they of course have the same great drawback to contend against as have all the other rural battalions, viz., the lack of financial encouragement for men to return to camp after the first year, which is always a trying one. The excellent figure obtained by the 53rd of Sherbrooke (a city corps) favours the long desired increase of its strength from four to six companies as well as being a good index to the satisfactory results that would in all probability attend the establishment of a Field Battery in that growing city, to take the place of the one recently disbanded at Richmond.

Too Many Inspecting Officers.

The great drawback to these figures giving the proper standing of the various corps inspected is that they are not all allotted by the same officer. This is especially noteworthy in the case of the Cavalry, in which, out of eleven regiments and troops inspected there have been no less than nine different officers making the necessary examinations, almost all of whom are, while on the Staff, from the Infantry, and naturally more conversant with the details of that branch of the Service. What is wanted is that *one* officer, and an experienced Cavalry officer at that, be appointed to inspect all the Cavalry during the season, and that he alone be responsible for the allotment of marks. Until this is done there will be more or less dissatisfaction with the published figures.

The Medical Service of the Militia.

It was pointed out in these columns, in the special number of December 15th, last, that the wants of the medical service were many and urgent. These statements have been fully verified by the debate on the Militia estimates on Feb. 10th Surgeon-General Bergin stated, during the discussion, that he had not been consulted, relative to his branch of the service, since 1888. It is not too much to say that such a state of affairs is scandalous and detrimental to the public interest. We are now pleased to learn from the *Empire* that Dr. Bergin, accompanied by Dr. Ryerson, M.P.P., secretary of the Association of Medical Officers of the Militia, had last week an interview with the Minister of Militia, and that the honorable head of the Department has promised a thorough investigation into the medical service, and a complete reorganization, should the report of the Surgeon-General warrant it. Dr. Bergin will visit all the Camps of Instruction, and will probably be sent to Washington and to the State Camp of the National Guard of the State of New York.

That much good will come from Dr. Bergin's report is undoubted. It has been insinuated that the Surgeon-General has not shown the interest in the service which might fairly have been expected of him. We are, however, inclined to believe that had he had in the past the working of the Medical Officers Association, there would have been no opportunity to decry him.

A Blow at Slavery.

It is impossible to draw too much attention to the fact that the greatest of all uses to which the naval and military forces of Great Britain and Europe could be employed would be as vigorous and persistent action towards the suppression of the accursed traffic in human bodies and souls which makes Africa in truth the "Dark Continent." In this connection it is pleasing to note that British forces have recently placed a new Sultan on the throne of Zanzibar, on the east coast of Africa, a kingdom which has since 1890 been under the protectorate of England. On the death of Ali bin Said recently his son Kalid claimed the throne. He seized the royal palace and fortified himself against attack. According to the Mohammedan law as recognized in Zanzibar, Hamid bin Thwain, the son of a deceased brother of the late Sultan, had a prior claim to the throne. The commander of H. M. S. *Philomel* landed a body of marines, surrounded the place, and demanded the abdication of Kalid. Being intimidated by the presence of British soldiers the usurper surrendered, and Hamid was proclaimed Sultan in his stead. To all intents and purposes this makes Zanzibar a British possession, and means the immediate total suppression of slave-trading in that district. May the end of this century see such a crusade undertaken by all the Great Powers as will sweep Africa from sea to sea, and purge it of the damnable system which mocks the christianity and civilization of the age.

The Petition from the Lower Canada Veterans of 1837-8.

As will be seen by reference to another column, Major Alex. Daly, who for many months has had in hand the obtaining of signatures to a petition to the Queen from the surviving loyal veterans of '37-8, died suddenly a short time ago. A few days before his demise he entrusted us with the document to make the necessary arrangements for its being forwarded, in due time, through the proper channels, for transmission to Her Majesty, and his executors have, since his death, confirmed this action, and given over to us all the correspondence and papers on the subject. In a few days the petition will be sent forward; should this reach the eye of any one who has not yet signed, they are requested to communicate at once with the editor of this paper. Full particulars of the movement will from time to time be published in our columns.

The officer commanding one of the leading infantry battalions in New Brunswick, writes us as follows:—

"The information asked for by you for publication in the *MILITARY GAZETTE*, from the commanders of corps throughout the Dominion, will be the placing on record of many interesting facts connected with the early settlement of various localities in the Provinces, the distinctive features of which will be of great value to the historian. Every officer and man in the force will be profited by reading of brave deeds performed by his brother in arms, when opportunities have been offered, and an *esprit de corps* aroused to vie with each other in what is good or great, either as citizen or soldier.

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Those who imagine that service in the Army is unpopular, will be surprised to learn that the total number of recruits enlisted during 1892 was 42,000, an increase of 6,000 over the figures of 1891. There's no end of life in the old dog yet.