

firing only twenty rounds per annum each, to have sanctioned the issue in the past of a larger quantity of ammunition than allowed to the ordinary militia. Our remarks on this subject last week were founded on the erroneous assumption that the allowance to the permanent corps was the same as to the rest of the militia, which we are glad to learn is not the case. This has been the general impression, arising no doubt from the fact that there is no established rule governing the amount of ammunition to be expended by the permanent corps, except that it shall not exceed sixty rounds per man per annum. But even supposing each man fires his maximum, which he doesn't do; the practice is still insufficient; and, as contended for last week, the issue should be increased to two hundred rounds at least.

CANADIAN ARTILLERYMEN will be deeply interested in an illustration appearing in the *Illustrated London News* (American edition) of the 28th April, of a new pattern field-gun sleigh, as in process of testing on the St. Lawrence, at Quebec. An article descriptive of it also appears, as follows: "The winter equipment for field batteries has been the subject of numerous experiments lately tried by the Russians, and has attracted considerable attention amongst military men. The Russian artillery applied ordinary wood sleighs for the purpose of transport, which necessitated the guns being transferred to wheels before they could come into action. A military correspondent in Canada, Capt. R. W. Rutherford, has favoured us with an illustration of the Canadian artillery at Quebec testing a new pattern sleigh-carriage for a field-gun on the ice of the River St. Lawrence, with a view of the city and fortress in the background, which appears on our front page. Being Adjutant of the School of Artillery there, his explanation of this improvement, designed by himself, has some military interest."

"ITS principle," the article continues, "is a separate sleigh or 'bob,' as it is called there, for the gun carriage, and one for the limber. Each 'bob' is so built as to be alterable to suit the gauge of any snow road, which is important in Canada, as the width of the track varies in the different provinces. They are each provided with a toboggan bottom, to prevent them from sinking into the deep snow. The draught and equipment are the same as on wheels, and there is the same drill; the gun-carriage and limber are merely lifted off the wheels and put on the sleigh. When not in use, the sleigh is easily packed for transport, and two waggons carry all the sleigh outfit for a field battery of four guns, with ammunition and other needs. The arrangement is so designed that the gun, whether on wheels or on the sleigh, is always ready for action; in firing it the recoil is checked by iron chains passed under the runners, as in the old pattern sleigh. This new sleigh has been thoroughly tested in deep snow over the roughest and heaviest roads. It has been fired with service charges, and, in fact, tried in every possible way; and has been found to work most satisfactorily in every respect. It has been favourably reported upon to headquarters in Canada for the winter equipment of the field batteries throughout the Dominion."

Queries and Replies.

DISPOSITION OF THE SCABBARD.

Q. Please interpret clause (e) of section 266 of R. & O. Does it mean that company officers of a battalion; are permitted to hook up the scabbard when wearing the patrol jacket?

I know that this habit is indulged in, but does not "all other officers" mean those officers who wear jackets. My contention is, that it is not intended that an officer should hook up his scabbard under the tail of his jacket, much less to do so with the sword in the scabbard, as in my opinion it looks just as un-military to see an officer expose three or four inches of the lining of his jacket as it is to see the flannel collar of his shirt appearing above his jacket or tunic.

I would like our friend "Linch-Pin" to give his views on this. BOOTS.

A. In a previous paragraph (c) of section 266, officers are divided into two classes, viz.: those who wear their sword belts over and those who wear them under the tunic; we would therefore interpret "all other officers" to mean those who wear the sword under the tunic, viz., "general staff, personal staff of general officers and officers of cavalry (except dragoon guards) and rifle regiments," all of whom do not hook up sword belts whether in full or undress uniform. All officers except the above mentioned wear the sword belt hooked up both with tunics and patrol jackets. On patrol jackets there is usually a slit left in the side which permits the jacket to sit gracefully over the scabbard-hook, thus avoiding the difficulty referred to by our correspondent.

GOSSIP OF THE MILITIA.

Holiday preparations amongst the city Militiamen.

Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa busy—The Thirteenth suffers from Hamilton's apathy—Sudden death of a brave volunteer—Linch-pin on weaknesses in the system.

THE sudden death is announced at Battleford, N.W.T., of Fred Merrigold. Deceased was a member of the family of the late Registrar of Oxford, Col. James Ingersoll. On the Fenian disturbance in 1865, Mr. Merrigold volunteered under Capt. (now Col.) Beard, and was for some time in this city. On the landing of O'Neil at Fort Erie, in connection with the late R. Terquand deceased assisted in the formation of No. 6 Company, 22nd Battalion, and was for nineteen years under Capt. McCleneghan as an officer of that corps. Attached to the North-West through Col. Richardson, deceased established himself at Battleford, and was exceedingly useful in giving shape to the official wants of the registry office in that remote region. For some time he was in the government service in connection with the telegraphic extension, and on the last uprising was at his post as a soldier, and under Col. Otter took part in the battle of Cut Knife, for which he was awarded a medal for distinguished bravery. Late letters from Battleford indicated that Mr. Merrigold suffered from rheumatism, and he projected a visit to the springs at Banff.—*London Free Press.*

Commenting upon a report that the Sixth Fusiliers of Montreal are to visit St. John, N.B., on Dominion Day, the *Fredericton Capital* says: "Would it not be well for the two Fredericton companies of the 71st to join their Montreal comrades in St. John on Dominion Day, if not selected to go to camp at that time."

A despatch from Montreal, dated the 10th inst., says: Capt. Valcourt, of the 84th Battalion was accidentally shot at St. Cimon, county of Bagot, on Saturday last. He was at the rifle range preparing to fire when he was struck by a stray bullet which shattered his thigh. It was thought at first that the limb would have to be amputated but Dr. Hindgston dressed it and all would probably have gone well had not the patient become delirious during the night and got out of bed. He stumbled and fell and the bandage gave way. Medical aid was procured but Capt. Valcourt died before morning.

Toronto.

JUST about the time, says the *Empire*, when the sun shone at its hottest on the 29th ult., the Queen's Own Regiment assembled at the armoury and went through the customary initial exercises before receiving marching orders. About half past two the order was given, and some 550 men under Col. Allan, to the sound of sacred marches by the excellent band of 45 pieces, marched to the excellent band of 45 pieces, marched to the church of St. George the Martyr, on John street. The church was pretty well filled with the soldiers. The service opened with the processional hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers," led by the surpliced choir and taken up by the congregation. A short form of evening prayer was then intoned by Rev. F. M. Webster, a special lesson being read by the rector of the church, Rev. George Cayley.

The sermon was preached by Rev. G. E. Lloyd, of Penetanguishene, chaplain of the regiment, taking for his text Galatians, v., 9: "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." The preacher spoke of the responsibility each individual soldier should feel with regard to his conduct as a member of the regiment.

THE YORK RANGERS.

"C" company of the 12th Battalion; paraded for the first time in their new hall, College street, on the 1st instant. Captain Furnival was in command and was assisted by Lieut. E. Verral. There was a large attendance and the company promises to be one of the finest in the regiment. Clothing and accoutrements were issued and arrangements were made for meeting every Tuesday and Friday for drill preparatory to going into camp. Colour-Sergt. James Spanton, late of Her Majesty's 74th Norfolk regiment, has been engaged to act as drill instructor. He is now on his way from England.

THE ROYAL GRENADIERS.

The Royal Grenadiers mustered at the drillshed on the 3rd inst., to the number of nearly 300, Major Dawson in command. Headed by their band, the battalion marched to the Moss Park rink, where they were put through general movements. While in the middle of one of these the electric lights went out, leaving the building for a time in total darkness. On returning to the drillshed Major Dawson announced that the church parade will take place on Sunday week, May 13. The battalion will assemble in the Queen's Park at 2.45 p.m. and march to St. Stephen's church at 3.30, when the Bishop of Toronto is expected to preach.

The commanding officer has made the following appointments in "D" company: To be sergeant provisionally, Corporal Thomas G. Blake, vice Nelson resigned; to be lance-sergeant provisionally, Corpl. George Scully; to be corporals provisionally, Pte. Thomas Dean, Edwin Stephens and Albert Roberts; to be lance-corporal, Pte. Edward Kendall. Leave of absence has been granted to Surgeon Ryerson for three months, dating from 25th April.

After parade the officers assembled at the armoury to inspect and report on the condition of the "waist belts" in possession of the regiment.

Capt. Davidson, adjutant of the 1st Brigade of Field Artillery, was sent down last week by Lieut.-Col. McDonald, Mayor of Guelph and the council of that city, to convey an invitation to Major Dawson and the officers and men of the Royal Grenadiers to spend the 24th of May in the Royal city. The Guelph people want them to leave Toronto the evening before and camp in the Exhibition Park, but as it is only a two hours' run it is probable that they will not leave until Thursday morning. Accompanied by the artillery there will be a parade in the morning. At noon a royal salute will be fired by the artillery, on the market place. After luncheon the Grenadiers will perform the beautiful ceremony of trooping the colours. During the afternoon there will be athletic sports, in which the Grenadiers have been invited to take part. The most interesting feature will be a tug-of-war between the Grenadiers and Artillery for a silver cup.

THE SUPERANNUATION QUESTION.

I notice that in your editorial notes you refer to the question of superannuation of