

quired, but from these batteries the services of experts could be obtained to inspect properly, repair periodically, and keep in order the artillery and valuable military stores recently acquired, also (what is now most urgently needed) undertake the periodical inspection and repair of the breech-loading Snider, rifles in the hands of the infantry. By this system of engaging the men for only twelve months, means would be afforded to very many men in the garrison artillery for passing through a practical school of gunnery, and it may be calculated that at least 170 thoroughly well trained gunners would be annually passed out of these batteries, and available at any time for the defence of the country.

The details connected with the proposed establishment of these garrison batteries of artillery, I shall have the honor to submit for the consideration of Government in a special Report hereafter.

#### ANNUAL INSPECTION.

In the beginning of the month of September, whilst many corps were at their annual training, I proceeded, to inspect in Military Districts Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

In last year's Report it was recommended that the annual drill should be performed by Brigades, encamped in their respective Brigade Divisions, for several reasons:—

1st. As the defence of the country against such raids as have recently been made from the territory of the United States, cannot be properly undertaken by the independent action of detached bodies, unsupported by artillery, and unaccustomed to act together, it becomes desirable to form Field Brigades, and to accustom the various corps in every Brigade Division to assemble and act together as a Brigade, under the officer commanding the Militia in each District, assisted by his Staff (basing the general system to be adopted throughout the country on the plan of throwing the defence of every district against such raids, on the Brigades of Active Militia resident therein, who can, if necessary, be supported by other Brigades from the nearest District.)

2nd. To assimilate, as far as possible, the practice, in time of peace, of the steps necessary to be taken to assemble the Active Militia in each district rapidly on any point in the event of sudden invasion, so that when such an emergency occurs no uncertainty or confusion may arise.

3rd. To facilitate the establishment of a uniform and more effective system of supervision, inspection, drill, and target practice at the annual drill.

4th. To accustom the three arms of the service, cavalry, artillery and infantry, to work together in Brigade, thus affording all ranks an opportunity at the annual drill of acquiring some knowledge of the military duties they would be called upon to perform in the event of invasion.

Already great progress in efficiency has been the result of the adoption of this system. Indeed, the advantages of it cannot be over estimated, for it must be remembered that the Dominion of Canada has been for some time past exposed (and is probably still liable) to sudden attack from armed citizens of the United States (calling themselves Fenians,) in large bodies, unless therefore accustomed beforehand to concentrate and act in combined bodies (such as Brigades,) the Active Militia might, on any sudden inroad, be caught by the enemy when in detached parties, taken at a disadvantage, their concentration prevented or interfered with, and they would be liable to the danger of being defeated in detail. By

the adoption, however, of this system of Brigade Camps, mobilizing as it were, for a few days annually, each brigade throughout the country, most valuable practice is afforded, and in the event of sudden invasion, any brigade could be rapidly assembled in a condition to take the field at once, every man knowing beforehand the duty he has to perform—thus a handy field brigade of from 2000 to 3000 men; with some cavalry, or mounted riflemen, and a few field guns attached, would be in a position to meet, and effectually dispose of, such hostile and predatory bands, as have of late years threatened, and actually invaded the Dominion; judging also (by last year's experience) from the apparent disinclination displayed by the Government of the United States to control their own citizens, or their inability to prevent such outrages as have occurred, the necessity for Canada being in a position to do so is obvious.

Another important step in progress has taken place during last season, by the introduction, for the first time, at the annual drill, of a regular system of target practice by companies in succession, under their own officers, on the system, as far as circumstances will admit, observed in the regular army, each man firing, under supervision, five rounds at 200, five at 400, and five at 600 yards, 15 rounds per man in all; and with view to the encouragement of this most important part of military training, a certain number of prizes (to be given to those who obtained, at the annual drill, the highest shooting figures of merit,) were given by Government; the amount of these prizes, with other details being published in General Orders, dated 26th August, 1870, a copy of which will be found in the Appendix.

(To be continued.)

#### THE BRITISH ARMY BILL.

In *Punch's* "Essence of Parliament" we find the following:—

Mr. Secretary Cardwell presented the Government Scheme for the Re-organization of the British Army—the one important measure for which the British Nation was impatient.

These are the principal features of the Scheme:—

It is proposed to unite all the forces of the country into one defensive army, the whole to be under the command of General officers of districts, subordinate to one commander-in-chief, and all to be under the supreme control of the government.

The Horse Guards moved into the War Office.

Lords Lieutenant are no longer to grant Commissions in the Auxiliary forces. That is to be done by the Queen.

Places of training are to be established.

Staff Colonels are to look after the Auxiliaries.

The Volunteers are taken in hand by the authorities. No more playing at soldiers; every man must learn to be a rifle shot, and every man must attend regularly. The officers are to be instructed, so that they may be really officers. The Volunteers will often be brigaded with the Regulars, and at such times will be under the same discipline as the Army. They are calculated at 170,000.

The Militia to be improved and enlarged.

The purchase of Commissions in the Army is abolished.

Compensation thus occasioned will cost Eight Millions.

Commissions will be obtained by competitive examination.

No more Cornets; no more Ensigns,

Promotion is to be by Selection.

There is to be no Compulsory Ballot, at present, but in case of an Emergency the Queen can summon Parliament, and thus such a Ballot may be ordered.

We are told that the United Army of the country, that is, the Regulars, Militia, Yeomanry, Two Reserves, and Volunteers will amount to 470,717 men

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.]

#### THE WIMBLEDON TEAM.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—The energy displayed by Lieut.-Col. Skinner in pushing the subscriptions towards defraying the expenses of the proposed team deserve much praise, and I question if another in the Province could be found who would have gone to so much trouble, or met with the same success. While being prepared to render him every assistance in my power, I cannot but suggest that the mode of selection is going to be very expensive to the competitors. For those not living at the places where the preliminary practice is to take place, we may calculate transport and hotel expenses to reach \$10, and for those who go to Toronto for the final test, say \$20; ammunition, about five hundred rounds, \$12. I understand there are nearly two hundred applicants; say that one hundred will have to go to the above expense, which shows a total of \$4200 (four thousand two hundred dollars), to be borne by a class of men who in many cases cannot afford it, and which will perhaps deter many of the best shots from competing. And, furthermore, the residents at the places selected for the competitions, will have considerable advantage over others: this would suggest the selecting of a range for the final practice, where the fewest number of marksmen reside.

Who should represent Ontario on this occasion? is a question of much importance. If, as is frequently advanced, one object is to show Englishmen, as well as other nationalities, a fair specimen of Canadians, which could not but satisfy their minds that this is a most desirable country for the surplus population of Europe, and thus make the money expenditure a good investment, by drawing a large immigration to our shores. If this is one important object, why not select native born Canadians. Out of the large number of applicants no doubt a superior native Canadian team could be selected, and thus avoid the anomaly of having the country represented by those who, doubtless feel quite as much interest in our national improvements, but fail to be the real "Simon Pure." I leave the matter entirely with Colonel Skinner, being satisfied that he will use that judgment and discretion for which his countrymen are noted.

A. VOLUNTEER