

trying to maintain a large militia force in a state of efficiency on less than half the annual expenditure necessary. Members of the force have done their best to supply the deficiency, but of course with only partial success. Some of the money voted has certainly run to waste, but that has been the fault of the pernicious system of political preferment which controls the administration of public affairs, and the force itself is not to blame. But, after all, the great trouble is that the supplies voted by Parliament for the support of the militia have not been anything like adequate.

Considering everything, the reduction of the vote made this year amounted to a national scandal. The so-called economies effected by the reduction of the permanent force and the cutting down of the drill pay of the city battalions were so miserable as to be altogether beneath contempt. We have had occasion to criticise some of the appointments to the permanent force, but none the less gladly recognize the high professional attainments and devotion to duty of most of the officers and non-commissioned officers. We cannot refrain from protesting against the contemptible cheese paring which has been going on, not only because it materially reduces the efficiency of the permanent force and detracts from its usefulness to the rest of the militia, but because it is unfair to the members of the permanent corps, who deserve better of the country.

Now that we have a minister who realizes that the militia requires more money expended upon it to keep it efficient, it is to be hoped that he will remain at the head of the department until the militia estimates attain reasonable dimensions. With the imperial sentiment so strongly engrained into the people of Canada, and with the importance of the Canadian militia in the great scheme of imperial defence, the minister should not find much opposition in Parliament to a substantial increase of the militia vote were he to explain the requirements of the force, as he understands them, to the members.

Army Chat.

Lieutenant Colonels J. Wilson, Royal Canadian Artillery and W. Otter, Royal Regiment of Canadian Infantry, have passed the tactical test at Aldershot, England, required for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Captain Victor Semini P.S.C., Leicestershire Regiment, has been appointed Deputy Assistant Adjutant General on Staff of Lieut. General A. Montgomery-Moore, Commanding the Forces in Canada, in place of Major F. Waldon, P.S.C., Royal Artillery whose period of service will expire on the 1st October next.

Captain Semini, who joined the service from the Royal Malta Artillery in 1876, is a graduate of the Staff College and has been stationed in Halifax with the 1st battalion of his regiment.

Lieut. the Hon. Dudley Churchill Marjoribanks, from the 4th [Militia] Batt. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, has been appointed second Lieut. in the Royal Horse Guards, [Blues.] This young officer is heir to the Tweedmouth peerage and is thus a nephew of Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen.

Major S. J. A. Denison, 4th [Militia] Batt. South Staffordshire Regiment, has resigned his commission, with permission to retain his rank and wear the prescribed uniform on retirement.

Major Denison, who is a graduate of the Royal Military College, Kingston, also holds a commission as Captain in the Royal Regiment of Canadian Infantry.

Captain William John McElhinny, Royal Engineers, has recently received his captaincy. He received his commission on January 6, 1886, from the Royal Military College, Kingston, in the twenty-fourth year of his age. Captain McElhinny served in the Burmese Expedition 1887-8, and is in possession of the medal and clasp for this campaign.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Necessity of Target Practice.

Battles Will Be Won on the Rifle Range.

To the Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

It used to be said that battles were won on the barrack square, but now it is conceded that the conditions of modern warfare demand that we should turn our attention more and more to the rifle range, for by the skill acquired there will battles henceforth be decided.

The more one studies the question of modern fire tactics and the latest improvements in fire arms, the more one is convinced that those troops who combine superior individual marksmanship with a sound and thoroughly well mas-

tered system of fire, control and discipline, will in future battles gain the victory. But in order to attain such efficiency, both officers and men must devote themselves heart and soul to musketry.

The straightest individual shooting cannot under most conditions be very effective unless it is capable of combined action, and can be concentrated at the command of the intelligent leader upon the given objective. We cannot hope for any degree of efficiency unless the officers believe and take an active interest in musketry.

Every soldier should endeavor to attain such a degree of skill with his rifle as to make him feel confident that he has the power of destroying every antagonist; this feeling causes him to place equal reliance on the skill of his comrades, and in this conviction we have the best assurance of control and discipline.

Our militia is armed with a rifle that was considered entirely obsolete twenty years ago. It is as inferior to the Lee-Metford, the magazine rifle with which the British regulars are armed, as the old "Brown Bess" of our grandfather's time was to the Enfield rifle. It would be a national crime of the basest nature to ask our men, with the worn-out "gas pipe," to face the modern small-bore magazine.

The Lee-Metford has little or no recoil, and owing to its great initial velocity the trajectory is so flat that its point-blank range may be taken at 500 yards. These advantages serve to counteract any errors in elevation and judging distance, and at a time when in the heat of action it is scarcely possible for men to adjust their sights with any degree of accuracy, whereas on the other hand with the Snider rifle the curve of the trajectory, or the course described by the bullet in its flight, is so great that at the above distance (500 yards) a small error in calculating the range will cause a miss.

Our country, with its militia armed with the obsolete Snider, may justly be compared to a farmer, who in these days of modern reapers and labor-saving machines, continued to use the old-time honored scythe and flail.

For this condition of affairs the present administration must be held responsible. To allow it to continue would be an act of criminal folly. Surely there must be enough latent patriotism in the country to justify the expenditure of the paltry sum necessary to re-arm the militia with a modern weapon, and nothing inferior to the Lee-Metford will satisfy "Our Boys."

Yours truly,

I. R.

ORILLIA, Aug. 5, 1895.

To the Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

In your issue of Aug. 1st, you publish ten scores taken from the Orillia *News Letter*. In the first place the man don't