

PENSIONS FOR THE FORCE.

THERE is certainly no class of public servants so badly used as those officers of the militia permanently employed either on the staff or in the schools of instruction. Canada has admitted the justice of a pension system by establishing it in connection with the Civil Service of the country, and still more recently by also making provision for pensions for officers of the Northwest Mounted Police.

Militia officers receive less pay and have much greater expenses than any other public officials. After years of service they may get command of a district at \$1,700. Out of this they have to provide and keep up a uniform that may cost from \$500 to \$1,500 without figuring the occasional changes. They must dress better in plain clothes than the ordinary individual. It is necessary for them also to do more entertaining and spend more to maintain their positions than ordinary civil servants. Very few of them can save anything for old age. We know of one officer in command of a district who lives most economically; has practically no family depending upon him; receiving about \$2,000 a year; who has been forced to fall back on some small private means, the pay not being sufficient to meet his current expenditure.

Many readers of *THE GAZETTE* are aware of a very sad case. An officer who, during the best years of his life, gave all his spare time gratuitously to the work of his corps. He became prominent, and eventually was made a brigade major, then for many years a D. A. G. Through a whim of the late Major-General he was retired with a gratuity of two years' pay. He is to-day penniless. A few officers in the militia recently raised a small sum to keep him from starving. Is this just treatment? Is it a fair reward for the years of self-sacrifice we are all making?

A country that can afford to waste money building canals and public works that no one uses can and must provide pensions for its permanent militia officers. When we make our votes tell we will be surprised how quickly the ward politicians who control both parties to-day will bow down to us.

A POINTER FOR C. O.'S.

The unearthly hours at which the Toronto regiments returned from their Queen's Birthday trips must have a very dampening effect on the ardor of officers

and men. *THE GAZETTE* thinks the C. O.'s should see that better arrangements are made for the comfort of all. The Highlanders, although only 40 miles distant from Toronto, did not reach home until 2 a. m., the Royal Grenadiers came in about two hours later, and the Queen's Own at 6 a. m. There is some excuse for the lateness of the latter's arrival, but none for the former two. Why make officers and men put up with so much discomfort in order that a few officers may attend a dinner or some such entertainment? Next year, should the regiments leave Toronto, we trust the C. O.'s will arrange a better programme, and leave, wherever they may be, as soon as the day's programme is completed.

SWINGING THE ARM.

MUCH difference of opinion exists among regiments as to whether the disengaged arm should be swung or remain perfectly steady at the side in marching past, especially at the shoulder, and *THE GAZETTE* has been asked to say which is correct.

In the review in Montreal last week six regiments marched past and in only one was the arm swung. They were correct. The others were wrong in keeping the arm steady.

In the Infantry Drill, 1893, it is specially provided that in marching past the disengaged arm shall be kept steady. In January of this year, however, an army order was issued striking out this provision in the two sections in which it appears. The order is as follows:

A.O. 18—Marching with Arms.

The following amendments will be made in "Infantry Drill," 1893:

1. In Sec. 34 the words from "kept" in line 5 to "be" in line 7, and from "on" in line 7 to the end of the sentence will be omitted.
2. In Sec. 181 (1) the words from "The" in line 4 to the end of the sub-section will be omitted.

This order was not republished in Militia General Orders. It should have been. Why it was not we cannot say. All changes of this kind that affect the drill that has been adopted in Canada should be immediately reproduced in General Orders. Very few see the Army Orders. The Adjutant-General's office should therefore see to this in future for the sake of uniformity, if for no other reason.

Swinging the arm is severely criticised. This is to be expected. We military men are the most conservative class in the world. We have to be driven into changes.

When we once become familiar with a new thing we think it so perfect we wonder why it had not been adopted before.

THE INSTITUTE.

LIEUT.-COL. J. F. TURNBULL has written the secretary of the Canadian Military Institute, congratulating that body upon the progress made and paying a tribute to the good work it is doing in bringing the officers of the militia force together for the purpose of mutual benefit as well as instruction. He refers to his recent visit to England, and in connection with it throws out a valuable suggestion. While there he used to spend his Saturday afternoons at the R. U. Service Institute witnessing a war game played by some scientific officers. Something of this kind, he suggests, would prove very popular with the many clever officers of the C. M. I., and afford much instruction.

A GRACEFUL COMPLIMENT.

Mr. L. Homfray Irving, secretary of the C. M. Institute, has received a communication from Lieut. Gerald A. Maltby, R. N. secretary of the Royal United Service Institute, informing him that by order of Major General Lord Methuen, chairman, and the Council, it has been provided that officers of the colonial, naval and military forces who are temporarily in England on duty are permitted to become temporary members of the institution on payment of five shillings in advance for any period not exceeding six months. They can also receive the journal if they desire it on the same terms as the members of the United Service Institution of India. Lieut. Maltby adds:

"I shall always be very pleased to give further information to any of your officers if they will call and see me when in London. I may add that we have a very good library and comfortable smoking and reading rooms."

"V. D."

English papers are beginning to add the initial letters "V. D." after officers and ex-officers of the volunteers who have obtained the Volunteer Decoration. For instance, Col. Jones, V. D., means that Col. Jones has won the volunteer decoration for twenty years' continuous service in some volunteer regiment.

SERVE THEM OUT.

Why should not the Department serve out the Lee-Metford rifles in store for the use of the schools of instruction? The attached officers and men now in attend-