

more perfectly armed and trained than its foreign rivals. An independent committee has been chosen to investigate a certain subject. It has performed its task to the perfect satisfaction of all competent persons who have watched it. If the Government does not now act upon its recommendations we shall begin to despair of that military progress which, however vexatious to men of peace, is absolutely necessary if England would retain the respect of her neighbours and be safe from aggression.—*The Mail.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

MILITARY SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—As the question of the Military Schools of the future has been freely canvassed in your columns for some time past, may I briefly ventilate my ideas on the subject?

I am rather surprised, I must confess, to see that almost all your correspondents condemn the present system of Military Schools. Some complain that they teach too much. At least so I infer from the tenor of several communications that have appeared in your columns, in which the idea is prominently brought forward that volunteers and militia do not need to learn all that regulars learn. That some volunteer hand-book should be substituted for the Queen's Regulations, and some manual of very much simplified drill for the Field Exercise.

Now, it seems to me that this principle is wrong. If ever the volunteers are to be used, it will be in conjunction with regulars. We cannot expect that they will come down to our level, and so we must come up to theirs. Their books must be our books too. For instance, one writer not long ago hinted at the uselessness of learning the routine of Courts Martial. But volunteer officers have before now had to sit on a Court Martial, and have been thankful that they have learned what they did about them at the Military Schools.

And I suppose it requires no gift of prophecy to foresee that the Adjutant of a Battalion, chiefly composed of drafted men, as most Battalions will be to a great extent ten years from now, will have his hands full with them. When the drafting has done its work, there will be no virgin defaulter books after a term of active service. And in case of war, nothing that ever was taught at a Military School would prove superfluous.

Some, on the other hand, propose that a Military Academy, like West Point, should be established in place of the present schools, where men might learn all the mysteries of war. No doubt it would be a very pleasant college for young men with plenty of time to spend their fathers' money at. But again, if we ever should go to war, there is no doubt but that our commanding officers, above the rank of Lieut. Colonel at least will be regulars; and that the honor of handling a brigade in action will hardly

ever by any chance fall to the lot of our aspiring friends.

A very clear-sighted cadet proposes as an improvement on the present system that the cadet of the Military Schools of the future should live in barracks. This plan, I fear, would be more plausible than practicable. The constant fatigue and orderly duties would interfere with study; and the general discomfort of such a life would deter men from entering. I speak feelingly. The only drawback to the complete success of the Laprairie camp was the discomfort. It was our own fault of course. But the cooking and housekeeping that we carried on there would have cost our affectionate mothers and wives many sleepless nights, had they appreciated our sufferings. Cadets had better learn the theory first, and then learn to apply it—say in another such camp.

The latest proposal that I have seen is that each Battalion should have a Military School of its own. This plan is liable to several objections. In any school the teacher should know more than the scholars want to learn, and there is no passed cadet who is fit to take charge of an advanced squad, for the simple fact that he must have forgotten so much of what he would have to teach. And none but regulars can teach the bearing, the stop, and the steadiness which make a soldier something more than a man in a red coat.

Why not go on with the old Military Schools, and put them under the instructions of discharged regulars? A good many quondam Military School instructors are still in the country. So are a great many others who are just as good. The Grand Trunk Railway could furnish at least one efficient staff from among its employees.

And again, why wish to restrict the Military Schools to gentlemen? Passed cadets are certainly worth fifty dollars apiece to their country, either as officers, non-commissioned officers, or even privates. A man who goes to the school to make fifty dollars will be invaluable to his company on active service, should he never rise above the ranks, should he be socially the veriest cad that ever stepped.

Passed cadets of every rank, especially if Laprairie men, proved their value again and again in 1866, and I have no fear but that they will do so once more, if our amiable neighbours across the lines ever take to the expensive amusement of burning ball cartridge with the heavy end pointed towards us.

37TH IGNORAMUS.

MONTREAL CAVALRY SCHOOL.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

Commandant—Major B. C. Russell, H.M. 13th Hussars.

Adjutant—Lieut. H. S. Walker, H. M. 13th Hussars.

Drill Instructor—Sergeant Macdonald, H. M. 13th Hussars.

Riding School Instructor—Sergeant Maguire, H. M. 13th Hussars.

At the final examination of the Cavalry class in March last, the following officers and non commissioned officers received Certificates of proficiency, as follows:—

FIRST CLASS.

Lieut Colonel T. Bacon, Brigade Major, Montreal.

Lieut. Colonel A. D. D'Orsonnons, Brigade Major, Terrebonne.

Major E. Barnard, Militia Staff.

Major G. Dowker, V. Garrison Artillery, Montreal.

Major A. R. Bethune, 3rd Battalion Volunteer Militia.

Troop Sergeant Major John Tees, 1st Troop V. C., Montreal.

Corporal John Crozier, St. Andrew's Cavalry, St. Andrews.

SECOND CLASS.

Troop Sergeant Major H. W. Alloway, Royal Guides, Montreal.

Sergeant O. Mercier, Canadian Hussars, Quebec.

Corporal J. McMillan, Canadian Hussars, Quebec.

QUEBEC CAVALRY SCHOOL.

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Commandant—Captain Turnbull.

Adjutant—Lieut. W. L. Forsyth, late 7th Hussars.

Riding Master and Drill Instructor—Mr. F. Villiers, late 13th Hussars.

This School of Instruction is doing much good, no less than 28 cadets having already gone through a course of Riding Drill, but owing to the whole expense falling upon the officers of the Quebec Squadron, the Government not even allowing the paltry trifle of forage for the 12 trained troop horses kept expressly for the school, they cannot keep the cadets as long at Riding Drill as could be wished.

FROM BROCKVILLE.

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The two Rifle Companies of the Grand Trunk Brigade here are now performing their annual drills, with an average attendance of about 35 per company.

The annual meeting of the Brockville Rifle Association was held in the Brigade office, on the 17th inst., with a larger attendance than usual. The report of the Secretary-Treasurer shewed a balance of about \$250 on hand, which was considered very satisfactory.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Lt. Col. Buell, 42nd Battalion (re-elected), President; Captain and Paymaster H. S. McDonald, 41st Battalion, Secretary-Treasurer; Major McKechnie, Captains Cole and Worsley, and A. B. Dana Esquire, Mayor (re-elected), Vice-Presidents. The council, with few exceptions the same as last year.