

by a beautiful engraving entitled "Praise ye the Lord," the other illustrations are, The sleigh-ride to grand papa's for dinner, The Bruce Mines Landing, Canadian Southern Railway Bridge at St. Thomas, A Natural Curiosity, Origin of the Wasail Bowl, The Private View, Carlo Dolce's "Parce Somnum Rumpere," Give us our daily Bread, The Bachelors, Christmas dinner, Christmas at the Court of King Arthur, and a Ghost story. This is truly a magnificent number and the illustrations of a very superior character. The splittid proprietor shows that he means to command the success his enterprise deserves, we wish him God speed and the compliments of this joyous season.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

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

### STAFF ORGANIZATION.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR.—Without arrogating to myself any special privilege which can justify an intrusion into the *aura penitralia* of the Militia Department; I trust I may be allowed to say a few words as to the adaptation of the English Staff system to the requirements of the Canadian army, whether in peace or War. To those who were at the Brigade Camps, the necessity, for the extension of staff was sufficiently obvious. I am quite well aware that the duties that fell to the lot of the temporary staff appointed for these camps were, in most cases, efficiently performed;—but in all cases, difficulties arose; and these officers were overtaxed in the performance of the very onerous duties that fell to their share; or by their non performance caused very considerable discomfort to those who were dependent on their efforts. Such a contingency should not be possible in a well considered organization, and with all humility I venture to suggest my ideas on the future staff organization of our divisions or Brigades, with a view to prevent the recurrence of such unpleasantnesses. And first, let me reply to the arguments of those whose prejudice or parsimony leads them to decry the services, or necessity, of a staff; in the words of a distinguished military writer, "The staff is to an army what steam is to a locomotive. The machine itself may be of the highest order, the engineer who directs it may be a man of first class talent, but without the motive power it is merely a huge collection of well polished material." For the necessity of completing such an organization in time of peace, I can reply, in the words of the veteran Sir William Napier, "War only tries the strength of the military framework; it is in peace the framework itself must be formed." With such apology, and such authorities I will proceed to the consideration of my task.

Under present circumstances the staff of a territorial district, numbering at its quota

from 3,000 to 5,000 men of the Active Militia, consists of a Deputy Adjutant General, one Brigade Major for each division and a District storekeeper; during the time that the Active Militia are not on service, this staff is amply sufficient. When the period of drill, or active service arrive, these officers are drawn from their respective posts in order to undertake the duties of command, and to act as the field staff. To question such an arrangement is not my intention, but it seems a doubtful policy which takes from the headquarters of each district or division the only men who are familiar with the character and resources of their respective districts, and through whom only the organization of the Reserve Forces could proceed and the forwarding of men and supplies could be maintained were the country in a state of War. For purposes of annual drill such considerations are not material, although it would be better if it could be otherwise arranged.

We will consider the Active Militia of a district ordered into camp for annual drill. The Deputy Adjutant General by virtue of his command, occupies a similar rank to that of a Major General in the British service. For his assistance in the field he should have an Assistant Adjutant General, an Assistant Quartermaster General, and an aide-de camp for each Brigade. These officers should be regularly appointed and commissioned, receiving the pay of their rank during the period of annual drill, and being required to familiarize themselves with the duties of their respective offices.

The duties of the A. A. G. should be to issue orders, conduct all correspondence on all subjects connected with the discipline, duties drill and efficiency of the division, and to act as chief of staff.

The A. Q. M. G. would provide for the transport, camping and moving of Troops. He would provide maps, lay out routes for marches, or sham fights, and arrange with proprietors about the occupation of their ground. He would issue camp equipage and other stores, select sites for camping and Rifle practice, and lay out the ground to those purposes; provide for water supply and see that the regulations for cleanliness were carried out by the Regimental Quartermasters.

The aides-de camp might be selected in rotation from amongst the subalterns in the cavalry or Artillery—one should, however, remain permanently on that duty during the camp.

The present Brigade Majors should be attached to their several Brigades, it being important that their personal knowledge of the officers and men composing them, should be given to assist the officer commanding. He should be the senior officer (qualified) of the division, and should receive the rank of Colonel, an aide-de camp should be allowed him.

For the supply branch should be appointed an assistant, and a Deputy Assistant Com-

missary General (or supply officer, if the name were preferred) whose duties would be to make all contracts for the supply of food, fuel, and light; and to see that they were issued. They would also issue ammunition, clothing and intronching tools if required.

From the surgeons of each brigade should be appointed a Surgeon Major, who would issue all medical stores, keep the roster of medical officers for hospital duty, and superintend the hospital. All arrangements for the discharge or conveyance of sick or wounded would be made by him through the A. A. G. or A. Q. M. G. He would be responsible for, and certify to, any accounts incurred for hospital service of his brigade. In case of a division hospital being established the senior Surgeon Major would act as principal medical officer.

The paymasters department being under the control of Headquarters at Ottawa; its organization does not come within the province of this article; but I should suggest that sufficient assistance be allowed these men who worked and underpaid officers, to enable them to discharge their arduous and responsible duties.

In the provision of the above staff I have borne in mind the possible contingency that the services called for would be rendered necessary by the outbreak of war. It is folly to sneer at such a provision; for if we are not preparing for such an emergency, to what purpose is our \$1,500,000 spent annually? In such a case the appointment of these officers would be a great step towards completing the organization of "our Canadian army," and would be a great guarantee against that hurry and confusion which generally occurs on a sudden call to arms, and which is generally so disastrous in its consequences. The item of pay for their sixteen days services would be a mere nothing, while it would afford a grateful opportunity to many who have served for years in command of a battalion, and are ambitious of further service, though desirous of relinquishing their active duties; and would give them that promotion to which long and honourable service has entitled them. If a farther provision were made for their retirement retaining their rank, at the end of three years services; a reserve of officers qualified for staff duty, would be obtained that would be available in case of need.

The main object gained would be in the perfection of that organization which must be our sole dependence in case of war. Let each division be farther provided with its supplies of reserve ammunition, equipment, and stores, and rendered independent in its organization; so that it could take the field at short notice; and the country would then realize that its defence was provided for; and that its expenditure of money for that purpose was repaid. Until this is done, I fear that "our Canadian army," must bear the same stigma as that applied to the volunteers of Great Britain, who were char-