

officers from both Services—consequently society, though limited, is decidedly select.

Owing to the "all-round shift" made by the Dominion Government in the locations of the officers of the Militia Staff, the former Deputy Adjutant General, Lieutenant Colonel Houghton, late of the 20th Foot, has been moved to Manitoba and has been replaced by Colonel Laurie, who has been for so long a period Inspector of Militia in Nova Scotia. For the last three months this district has been without a staff officer, as Colonel Laurie, who went out to the Transvaal as a volunteer with Sir Frederick Roberts, had not returned from the Cape; but this officer, coming via Halifax and San Francisco recently, arrived and took over the command, and at once ordered a parade of the Victoria Volunteers, which took place on the 4th August. The regular annual training had hardly commenced, and none of the corps are nearly up to their established strength, but the Artillery under Captain Dupont, and the Rifles under Captains Wolfman and Fletcher, mustered about 120 men. Taken as a whole the appearance of the men was creditable, but the colonel, in inspecting the ranks of the several companies, was quite plain-spoken wherever the accoutrements or general turn-out showed any signs of carelessness or slovenliness, for, although not a spit-and-polish man, it was quite evident he wanted his men to look soldierly and smart.

Captain Dupont next put the companies into shape as a battalion, and put them through such simple battalion movements as the limited space in the drill-shed would allow, and then forming three sides of a square, the fourth side being left open for the ladies and gentlemen, who had attended in considerable numbers, Colonel Laurie addressed the men at some length. He first explained that this was not his annual inspection, but merely a parade to see how they were organised and fitted out, in order that he might take steps to remedy what he considered wrong and to furnish equipments that might be deficient. He was glad to meet them, and would say a few words on their duties and the position they held to each other. He assumed from seeing them there that they had enrolled themselves from a proper spirit of patriotism, and because they recognised it as a sacred duty. That was the sentimental part of the organisation, and in that he believed there was no need for him to instruct them. But, coming to the practical part, he wanted to urge on them that confidence must be acquired. That confidence they might well have in their weapons, for, although there were many better rifles on the prize-shooting range, he still doubted whether, in its simplicity and capacity for enduring all rough work—in fact, for the general rude usage a soldier's weapon gets on active service—there was any better weapon than the Snider. Confidence in themselves so as to use their weapon to the best advantage, they must acquire, and this was what made a man—confidence in one another so as to be assured of mutual support at trying times, and under all circumstances. It was the object of all drills and discipline to instil, in fact, to make it part of a man's nature, not merely to obey, but to feel full reliance that his comrades were under the same influence, and that united they were irresistible. Confidence also was wanted in those under whose immediate orders they were that they would always so place them as to use their weapons and their own powers most effectively, and in this he felt assured, as from his personal intercourse with the officers, he could affirm that nowhere had he met men who had taken hold of their work more singlemindedly and with a more honest desire to arrive at efficiency than the officers of these companies. And now he came to the head of the organization here, himself, on whom so much devolved. He came among them a stranger, with the disadvantage of succeeding an officer who was personally known to them all, he came with a determination to do his utmost to increase their efficiency. He found here a small force, he had left behind him in Nova Scotia nearly 5,000 men, of whom he was very proud. He had served with them nineteen years, and was exceedingly sorry to leave them; but when he was told he must be moved, he had

heard so much of the thoroughly British spirit that characterized the inhabitants of British Columbia, and as the only naval station in the Pacific, it was so important a position that he had asked to be sent here. He was in earnest, and he believed they were the same. It was true that they were 300 men in all, as compared with the thousands of men in the Eastern Provinces. They could not vie in numbers, but man for man they could fully match them if so minded. He had been much struck during his long and continuous acquaintance with volunteers with their tendency to depreciate themselves, especially to look at the gloomiest side of everything connected with their particular corps. He wanted them to assume a higher tone; to respect themselves more. There was nothing to justify the disparaging tone they chose to assume. But the world was agreed to accept people's own estimate of themselves, rarely to rate them higher. They might rely upon him to tell them of their shortcomings. He always spoke plainly. He had no idea of taking off his cap and requesting them to be kind enough to do what they were told; he gave orders, and he expected them to be obeyed. He had been trained to discipline, had always carried it out elsewhere, and he intended to carry out the same system here; and, this he believed, they would in the long run much prefer; and he intended to know them all, and know them well, and fully believe that, animated by the same motive, they would soon become well acquainted and thoroughly understand each other. There was yet one subject on which he wanted to say a few words. He noticed that their corps were all under strength. Now, was there a man in the ranks who had not influence over at least one other young man in the town? If so, and if he individually were willing to place himself for service, under the command of his officers, why was he backward in getting his friend to come also? If he took any pride in the corps, why did he leave to the captain the duty of selecting recruits and filling the ranks? Let each feel he had an interest in getting good men, and good men only, to join.

This plain, soldierly address was listened to with marked attention. The volunteers felt that there was an earnest ring in it that meant business; and expressed themselves as encouraged to new efforts which they saw would be appreciated, whilst the outside people and press generally pronounce that fresh life will now be infused into the Volunteer organization in the far Western Province.

—A trial of the 100 ton gun was made before the members of the Ordnance Committee on the 2nd September. The charge of powder was 448lbs., the four cartridges of which it was composed being made up precisely 112lbs. each for the convenience of the Royal Laboratory. The three remaining of the five rounds ordered were fired, five and twenty minutes being occupied in loading and preparing for the first round, twenty minutes in the case of the second, and fifteen minutes for the third, making exactly one hour occupied in the whole three rounds. In an emergency the gun can be fired the same number of rounds in less than a quarter of the time. Major W. H. Noble, one of the artilleryists on the committee, calculated that the 2,000 lb shot, fired at a velocity of 1570 ft. per second would strike with an energy of 33,500 foot tons at the which, even at a mile range, would make short work of three-foot armor. It was held to be remarkable that all this potentiality is generated with so little strain upon the gun, the pressures created by the improved powders being uniformly below fifteen tons to the square inch. Electricity was employed to ignite the charges, the battery being in the instrument-room a quarter of a mile distant. The shots buried themselves in the sand-bank to a depth of about 60 feet., but the great gun was greatly under control that it recoiled only four feet., the hydraulic compressors acting most efficiently in absorbing the superfluous force. The War Office has di-