

ificate, and should be obliged to go through all the routine and discipline of a soldier's life, and get about twice as much drill as they do at present.

2. That the educational examination for admission be much stricter than at present, and that a certain height and physique be indispensable, so that the young men admitted should not be laughed at for physical infirmities or small stature.

3. That a different and more becoming uniform be adopted, and the cadets obliged to dress in a tidy and soldierlike manner, which as a general rule they don't do now.

4. That the staff (at least the commandant and the non-commissioned officers) be obtained from the regular army, and be exchanged at intervals, so as to give cadets the benefit of all alterations and improvements in drill, &c., made from time to time by the Imperial authorities. It is impossible to have militia instructors who can, without any practice themselves, teach the various changes in drill and tactics which are made; and in any case a more scientific staff should be had than we can expect to turn out from our militia for some time to come.

5. The schools to have a vacation at the time when the greatest number of the militia will be undergoing their annual drill, and the staff to act as drill instructors for the militia. Supernumerary regular non-commissioned officers might be attached to the schools, who could instruct such corps as might perform their annual drill at other times than during the vacation. This would supply a want much felt since the departure of H. M. troops, and without such instruction the militia can never be thoroughly effective.

ACTIVE MILITIA.

To resuscitate the active militia force which is now at a lower ebb than it has been since 1861, I would suggest the following changes:

1. That the pay of officers and men for the annual drill should be increased. Officers and non-commissioned officers to receive pay according to rank, on the same scale as is laid down for camp service, instead of the uniform rate of \$1 and 50 cents per diem as at present. Privates to receive \$1 per day for twenty days' drill, instead of the 50 cents now paid, together with a bonus of say \$10 per man for all corps (to be distinguished as "first class effectives") which pass a first class inspection, and have an average daily attendance at the annual drill of 75 per cent. of their full authorized strength such attendance to be verified by daily sworn "parade states," and checked from time to time by personal inspection of the militia staff. The final inspection of all corps to be very strict, and to be governed by a code of rules to be laid down by the Adjutant General. As the expenses of raising and maintaining corps fall more heavily on captains of companies than on field officers, an extra allowance of \$40, instead of \$20, should be made to cover company expenses. It may be objected that this scale of pay and allowances would double the cost of the militia service. To obviate this the force might be reduced to 25,000 or 30,000 really effective men, and the enormously expensive system of camps, which has done more to destroy the force than anything else be done away with, except for country corps which may desire to perform their drill in that manner. Corps going into camp to be obliged to perform half the number of days in company drill at their own headquarters.

2. The instruction of all corps, wherever it is possible, to be carried on by non-commissioned officers from the Imperial army, officers of corps being also obliged to take their turn at instructions.

3. Each military district to be obliged to furnish its quota of active militia, and to have the required number of corps gazetted, and in any district short the number deficient to be strictly balloted for on the requisition of the D.A.G. commanding, and the men drafted into the corps under strength.

4. That every inducement be given men to volunteer—such as exemption from local taxation and jury service during term of enlistment, care being taken that men so exempted shall have served at least one year previous, and be certified as "first class effectives."

5. That the Adjutant General be an officer of high standing from the regular army—such a man, for instance, as Sir Garnet Wolseley—a hard-working, zealous and talented officer to be chosen.

6. That the Deputy-Adjutants-General of districts should also be regular officers, to be appointed for four years, and to be transferred from one district to another, and back to the army, so that they may not settle down into lazy habits. These officers to be more active, and to have a more general supervision of their districts than at present. The D.A.G., who should be, at least, a major in the army, to act also as commandant of the military school of his district.

7. All other militia staff appointments to be the reward for efficient services of officers of the militia, and no civilian to receive such an appointment on any consideration.

8. All officers before being commissioned to pass a strict examination as to education, and a minimum standard of height and physique, for both officers and men, to be established and strictly adhered to.

9. More liberality to be shown in providing clothing and equipment, and all corps to be served out both summer and winter caps. Officers to be uniformed by Government for both winter and summer in a becoming and serviceable manner. Any officer resigning before the expiration of his three years' service to be obliged to return or pay for his uniform, &c. This arrangement would prevent the laughable sights, witnessed at rural camps, of officers improperly dressed and equipped.

10. Corps on active service, such as the North West Infantry Battalion, and the A and B batteries of artillery, should be made permanent and strengthened. They are already a most creditable beginning, and compare very favorably with the best of H. M. troops. A good idea was suggested a short time ago in the *Montreal Gazette*, viz., to let them exchange at regular intervals with similar corps in the Imperial army. This would help to strengthen the ties binding the two countries, and would render these corps most efficient.

11. Care should be taken that no unnecessary service, interfering with their ordinary avocations, be given the Active Militia,—such as turning out for elections. For such service when absolutely required, municipalities should be obliged to pay at least \$1 per diem and free rations, and the rule, adopted in England, of not allowing corps to perform such duty in their own districts, and, in case of bloodshed, making themselves marked men among their own fellow-citizens, should be followed here.

Hoping that these suggestions will not occupy too much of your space, and that they may meet the eye of the Hon. Minister of Militia,

I am, Sir,

AN OLD VOLUNTEER.

21st March, 1874.

Fifteen men of the Kingston Garrison Battery have left for Toronto, having joined the Manitoba mounted police.

SHIP GUNNERY PRACTICE.

One of our naval friends sends us a copy of a pamphlet published over twenty years ago by an officer of the Navy, who shortly after lost his life in the West, on the subject of "the necessity of a gunnery ship, or school of practice for teaching gunnery to the men and officers of the United States Navy." It affords a curious insight into the internal condition and routine of gunnery practice on board our ships-of-war at that day, and reveals a condition of affairs in marked contrast to that which exists in the service at the present day. The writer of the pamphlet alludes to the fact that at the opening of the war of 1812, in which we earned such laurels on the sea, our Government was with difficulty persuaded by naval officers to reconsider its determination to lay up the Navy, to save it from what was regarded as the certainty of its capture by the English, whose supremacy upon the sea was believed to have been conclusively established. It was to call attention to the decadence of our Navy since the war of 1812 that the pamphlet we refer to was written in 1851, and of the various causes which combined to produce this decline only one was considered, and that was "the cessation on our part to keep pace with other leading navies in the practice of gunnery." "Does any one not in the Navy know," asks the writer, "that a line of battle ship recently made a three years' cruise, during which not one shot was fired? Yet such is the fact. The same ship carried 600 shells, yet not one was made use of for the instruction of men and officers supposed to know, intuitively, all about them! Can any one, who has never heard the fact believe it possible that an officer attained the grade of lieutenant before seeing a shot fired from the guns of any ship in which he served? Yet it is true, and the officer in question had seen a large amount of service on foreign stations. Two of the ships in which he served fired shot shortly after he had been detached from them; but this does not, at all, contradict the fact that he saw nearly ten years' sea service, and no ball practice. It would not be impossible, or even difficult, to produce men who have made a cruise in one of our ships of war, and never seen powder fired except by the gunner for a salute. Now can men and officers thus deprived of practical experience, be a match for the English, who exercise, with shot, never less than once in three months?"

"During the time we were at war with Mexico, a line of battle ship which we had in commission on the enemy's coast, never once fired a shot out of her guns, to teach the men and officers how to use them! This might have been excusable had her men and officers been already well taught, somewhere else, and the plan been to save her ammunition for some anticipated necessity. But neither was the case, for her officers and crew had been brought up in the United States Navy, and she carried all her ammunition back to the United States; including 5000 lbs. of condemned powder which had been put on board expressly for practice at a mark! Her boat gun remained in the hole, and never was mounted! Her shells remained in the shell room, and probably many persons on board were ignorant which end of them should be put into the gun first! Now what has occurred once, may occur again, in fact becomes a precedent. An English naval commander, co-operating with an American man of war on the coast of Africa, was amazed to learn that the American vessel had no boat gun; and this vessel had been fitted out by the United States, where