

at the militia expenditure may serve to stay the hand of the Government for a while, but the outlay is one which must eventually be made.

It is interesting to note what its best friend, the Commandant, Lieut.-Col. D'Orsonnens, says of the school in his last annual report to the D. A. G.: "I regret to have to remind again," he says, "that St. Johns is without targets and ranges, that my efforts to obtain them have failed, and that unless my proposals to settle this difficulty are entertained we shall be without any means of training the attached officers and men and our own corps in a time when all parading movements are discarded for the true training of soldiers for active service. * * * Theory is not sufficient for men who will have to teach the practice in camps of instruction." This paragraph in the report inspires a reference to the ammunition returns, and from these it seems that not one round of ball or blank ammunition was issued in 1888 for the use of the men of B Company or of those attached for instruction. Gen. Middleton says: "Our small force of permanent troops should at least be all good shots." And yet for want of target accommodation one-fourth of the permanent infantry forces are, it seems, maintained without any attempt at practical instruction in the most useful part of a soldier's education.

To our knowledge some of the best men in the service are to be found on the muster roll of B School. In branding the institution an utter failure we do not desire to reflect in any way upon those who serve at it. They have no doubt made the most of a very bad case; and it is a cause for regret that so much talent should for so long have been allowed to go unapplied.

Pensions for Public Servants.

A pension system for the North-West Mounted Police is about to be submitted for the approval of Parliament, notice having been given by Sir John Macdonald. This scheme provides that a pension for life may be paid to any member of the police, other than a commissioned officer, if he joined the force subsequent to the 23rd May, 1873, and has served 25 years, or if, after 15 years' service, he is compelled to retire on account of bodily or mental infirmity. The scale is to be fixed thus: For the completion of 15 but less than 21 years' service, one-fiftieth of the amount payable for each completed year; for 21 and less than 25 years' service, twenty-fiftieths, and in addition two-fiftieths for every year of service over twenty; for 25 years, thirty-fiftieths, and in addition one-fiftieth for every completed year over 25, not to exceed, however, two-thirds of his annual pay at retirement. The annual pay is to be deemed the annual average pay, exclusive of extra pay or allowances, during the three years preceding retirement; and if the infirmity causing the retirement is caused by the evil habits of the member retiring a less amount may be fixed as his pension.

We would like to see some such scheme as this submitted for the benefit of the men of the permanent militia corps of Canada; and have no doubt that having adopted the principle for the police, the Government will shortly apply it to the militia also. These at present have no incentive to remain in the service for lengthy periods, as while soldiering they lose proficiency at the occupations which they formerly followed, and, becoming unfitted to fight their way through the world on even terms, have a decidedly poor outlook for old age. The want of such a pension system has been much felt, and has led to not a few desertions by men who, realising that by serving in the permanent corps they were only wasting time so far as securing provision against age or infirmity was concerned, have not troubled themselves with securing permission to leave, but have deserted upon the first favourable opportunity offering.

The position of the officers of the permanent corps is equally discouraging, and though an officer cannot profitably desert, he has other

means of putting upon record his lack of appreciation of the conditions of service. Take for instance the case of the two officers, Captains Freer and Scars, who left but a few months ago to rejoin the Imperial regiment in which they had previously served, and from which they were absent on leave while in this country. They were Canadian citizens, graduates of the Royal Military College, and had strong affection for our service, in which they had proved themselves exceedingly valuable officers. Here however, they had no prospect worth looking forward to. In the Imperial army, on the other hand, they have but to serve a few years more, and then be at liberty to retire with a handsome annual allowance. Canada cannot, and need not, attempt to rival the mother country in generosity to her soldiers, but she can well afford to make such provision for those who give the best part of their lives to the military service; that they may be relieved from the dread of want in their old age.

The Duties of Quartermasters.

It is the duty of the Quartermaster to take charge of all stores of every description belonging to the corps, and to issue them, on the requisition of captains of companies, as may be authorized and required. He receives ammunition and camp equipage. He attends to the billeting of the men, to the laying out of the camp, and has the superintendence of the loading and conveyance of the baggage of his corps when on the march. He is responsible for the cleanliness of the camp or barracks (R. & O. Militia, para. 182-184). He attends the commanding officer at all inspections of barracks, camps or stores. In all his transactions he is the agent of the commanding officer, and is responsible to him alone. The Quartermaster-Sergt. is especially under the Quartermaster, and assists him.

All stores are obtained on requisition (Form No. 4, S.B.). Requisitions are to be made out in duplicate (one copy marked "Original" and the other "Duplicate"); the different articles required mentioned in detail, preferably in alphabetical order, using the nomenclature of the "Priced Vocabulary," and the reason for the demand given. They are made out by the Q.M., signed by the C.O., and forwarded through the proper channel to headquarters.

Ammunition—When received, the Q.M. should compare vouchers with packages received; get receipt vouchers signed by the C.O. and returned without delay to the officer who sent the ammunition; see it safely deposited in the magazine. All empty packages must be returned to the nearest district store. The ammunition is issued on requisition by the Q.M. to captains of companies, who are responsible to the C.O. for its care and expenditure. (Q. R., sec. xii., 67-78; R. & O., 437-448.)

The equipment of a corps includes all articles of stores (excepting clothing, necessaries or books and stationery) which it holds in *permanent* charge. It does not include the barrack stores which it finds in barracks and takes over with them for temporary use, to be handed back when it leaves the station. The equipment of a corps may be said to *belong* to it, and travels with it wherever it goes, and may be broadly stated to consist of arms (including small arms, field artillery guns and all their accessory stores); accoutrements and pioneer appointments; carriages, wagons and vehicles of all kinds, with spare wheels and other subsidiary stores; harness and saddlery; musical instruments, such as trumpets, bugles, flutes and drums; band instruments (if supplied at public charge); tools for workshops and artificers; implements for signalling; articles for musketry instruction; camp equipment and intrenching tools; veterinary stores; miscellaneous articles, such as squad bags, chests, handcuffs, &c.; material for repairs; ammunition of all kinds.

A large portion of the equipment of every corps is distributed among the men or horses of the corps to form their personal equipment, but a considerable portion is for the use of the corps generally. The technical designation of every article of stores, in the Imperial service, is published in the "Priced Vocabulary of Stores," and it is ordered that these designations are to be strictly adhered to in making out requisitions. On receipt, the contents of each package are counted over and compared with the packing note placed within it and the total quantities with the receipt voucher. The condition of the stores is examined and deficiencies or damages reported on by Regimental Board of Survey. The stores issued to a corps are not necessarily *new*, it is sufficient if they be *serviceable*. If on examination the board entertain any doubts as to the serviceability of the stores, the C. O. must take objection to the stores before he signs the receipt voucher. Such of the stores as may be accepted as serviceable or pronounced to be so, are taken in charge and entered as receipts in the corps' equipment ledger. Corps marks are added (R. & O., 318 330) to those already on the stores, and also a special number by which each article