

people of Edinburgh were when the Union Jack replaced the *fleur-de-lys* on Quebec citadel.

Another fine object lesson of this character would be the despatch of the Bisley team to England next year by way of Australia as suggested by our antipodean brethren-in-arms. We agree with our always interesting confrere, the military correspondent of the *Toronto Telegram*, that the scheme is worthy of every consideration. We are well aware that the despatch of the team to Bisley direct is quite a heavy drag as it is upon the finances of the Dominion Rifle Association, but the Canadian Pacific railway can do much towards reducing the increased expenditure, and the C. P. R. has the unusual happy reputation of dealing generously with Canada's defensive force. The objection is urged, too, that the members of the team would have difficulty in getting away from business for such a long time, but that could easily be found out after the matter is taken into serious consideration, as it certainly ought to be.

The military writer of the *Telegram* also takes up the anomalous position of those officers whose names appear in the special list, on which subject we have forcibly expressed ourselves upon several occasions. Our contemporary says: "An officer of the special list at Ottawa has again succeeded in obtaining a place on next year's Bisley team, and comments are already on the move as to the advisability of such a course being permitted. It must be remembered that officers on the special list are those who have retired from the service, and who are supposed, whether correctly or not, to have rendered such service to the force during tenure of office that entitles them to special consideration by the militia department. The fact of all these officers residing at Ottawa is one of the most peculiar features in connection with the affair, while long and diligent search has failed to bring to light the signal services performed by some of those who have been thus honored. When to this is added the admitted fact that many officers who have undoubtedly achieved enviable reputations during their connection with the force, have been entirely overlooked, it is no wonder that there is considerable talk about this special list. These officers, while not attached to any corps, have all the

privileges of officers on the active list, but whether it was ever intended that they should be entitled to hold a place on the Bisley team is a matter for the 'powers that be' to settle. Suffice it to say, it is looked upon with anything but favor by the rank and file of the rifle shooting men of Canada today."

We hope that the new General and the new Minister will give this peculiarly selected special list their immediate attention, and, while they are at it, some consideration of the retired list would not be amiss.

We do not refer to this matter altogether with the view of eliminating from the list the names of numerous old warriors who have long since answered to the last muster roll, but whose names still appear with official regularity on the list, but with the view of having the reserve of officers made something more of a reality than a mere annual list. By the way, to judge from the distinct improvements made in the last list, we are promised a fairly correct one next year, if officers will forward corrections to headquarters as we have already requested.

The establishment of a real reserve for the active militia is one of the pressing necessities of the service, and the retired list of officers should be made the foundation of it, with some sort of tangible organization without the usual exactions of active service. To retain their position on the list, officers should be required to report at stated intervals, while some inducements should be offered to all men who have earned their discharges to report at the same time. As it is now the country, after paying for the training of the militiaman, loses all track of him just at the moment that this training reaches the highest point of perfection.

And here we would most earnestly wish to advocate a most important concession to retired officers and honorably discharged non-commissioned officers and men of the militia. Men who have done a full term of service for their country in the ranks of its defensive force, a service always performed at great personal sacrifice, should be exempted from jury service forever. Canadians who have

served in the militia are not of the class who would wish to shirk their public duties, but having fairly done their share they are deserving of some respite, and there are plenty of other good men and true to perform all of the jury duties necessary.

The degree of perfection the circumlocution machine at the militia department has attained in the art of making haste slowly is really remarkable. The sergeant-major of the Halifax garrison artillery was shown in the old establishment list as belonging to the permanent staff, although as pointed out some months ago in these columns, the transfer was not made. In the establishment list of 1895-6 this non-commissioned officer is still shown as belonging to the permanent staff, although the transfer has not taken place, and though the appointments to the Montreal and British Columbia brigades have been made.

The whole force has to be complimented upon the complete back-down of the cheese-paring party in the Dominion Government on the question of the reduced drill pay to city corps. When the CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE first announced the government's intention to allow the city corps only eight days' pay this year, many of our readers refused to believe it, although the information came directly from the highest official sources. The suggestion, as we remarked at the time, was outrageous and actually dishonest, and it is no wonder that the ministers who wished to starve the militia department found their position untenable. This incident shows that the force can exact fair treatment from the government if they make up their minds to a thing and stick together.

One incident in connection with this back-down is full of promise. The Hon. Mr. Dickey not only announced himself as opposed to this small attempt to apply a cheese-paring policy to the militia from the beginning, but showed himself heartily in accord with the officers of the force who went to the seat of government to demand justice. The impression on the militia is pretty general now, that we have a