

The man who discovered the scheme of biennial drills had a great head on him—for parsimony and ignorance of the subject with which he was dealing. I think a city corps first, would seem the most fit; they drill every year; they are always efficient; always muster full strength; always well equipped; always well officered; always the best shots; always the best band—I have here already written *six lies*, so if I have any respect for my hereafter I had better stop before I tell a couple of dozen.

I said they were always well equipped, &c., and all the additional untruths which you like to tack on or imagine. We well know that a large number of city corps were sent to the North-West a few years ago. Amongst the corps was the "Efficientish," from Nowhere—a place where there is supposed to be a large collection of stores. This corps had its annual inspection on the 25th March, 1885, and "mustered full strength" (22 officers, 336 men). "The arms, accoutrements and clothing," we are told, "were clean and in good order." On the 31st March the battalion received orders to proceed on *immediate* active service. Six days after their inspection, six days after their arms, &c., were in good order, they received this order for *immediate service*. Did they act on it? Did they leave that night, or next morning, or did they leave within a week? No, after making the necessary arrangements the corps left on the 12th April. But this efficient corps' troubles were not yet ended: they arrived at Winnipeg—after 12 days' rest at headquarters—not the full strength which paraded on the 25th March, but 29 officers, 201 men—having gained 7 officers and having lost 135 men—I suppose crossing the gaps, and that their whited bones still show where these men laid down their lives.

At Winnipeg they commenced "to complete outfit, which consisted of boots, socks, shirts, utensils and waterbottles. There being no waterbottles in stores large numbers had to be manufactured." They were delayed at Winnipeg until the 23rd of April, completing an outfit the greater part of which should have been issued to them before leaving their headquarters. Paragraph 457 (2) informs us that the c.o. must show that his men are, amongst other articles (see par. 548), in possession of waterbottles, shirts, boots, socks, and until this is done the D.A.G. of the district *will not permit any corps to leave its headquarters*. This D.A.G. evidently did not do his duty. Was he ignorant of such paragraphs? He seems also to have *misreported* the state of the corps at their annual inspection.

Take the individual soldier of an infantry city corps as he stands there. Begin at his head; the helmet is *not* the property of the country nor of the Government; the tunic—with several different shades in it—yes; that belongs to the country; ditto the waistbelt, which is on its last legs; so are the frog, bayonet and the *inaccurate rifle*—yes; *that's the country's too*; the trousers, yes; the leggings, no, he has paid for them himself; his boots, shirts and socks we hope he has paid for, but they are to all purposes his. He wears then in clothing, represented in cash, the property of the country:

Tunic, probably worn by 3 or 4 men before his day, worth	\$2.00
Trousers, ditto	0 75
Total value	\$2.75

His helmet he can always get \$1 for and 75 cents for his leggings, and with his other articles of apparel he is not behind his generous country, but ahead of it.

I should like the Members of Parliament, Senators and all, turned out with a tunic, forage cap and serge trousers, summer and winter, said articles to last them 5 years—or until condemned by "Linch-pin" as unserviceable. Wouldn't they be a pretty lot—perfect daisies!

An infantryman to be of any service—leaving aside the question of drill and his being able to shoot well—must be provided with some means of carrying ammunition, food, *water* (call it what you like) and a change of underclothing. That is my idea, but the authorities think and act differently.

I have quoted a corps which, without being properly equipped, proceeded to the North-West. Now I wish to tell of a whole district, which, no matter how willing officers and men are, will never, while deficient in equipment, amount to anything. The militia was taken over by the federal government in 1866—nearly 22 years ago—and in these 22 years, after over \$1,000,000 has been spent on such articles, it is distressing to be told that in 1886 "canteens were served out for the first time in this district, and were much appreciated." A whole district had never seen the inside nor outside of a canteen! Canada is a hot country at times and men are very apt to get thirsty, but thirst is not considered in the above cited district, for we are told that "water bottles they have none." I can easily understand why water bottles are not needed, for the "purest of water can be found anywhere at a depth of fifteen feet"! Of one corps in this district, a city one, I gather from the D.A.G.'s reports that even ammunition pouches are noticeable by their absence. However, alongside this corps is another which paraded in "marching order," "being beautifully clean." I would have read this paragraph with much more pleasure if it had been said, "The necessary kits having been supplied to this battalion, the men paraded in marching order: inspected all the kits; found a few articles missing, losses deducted from men's pay."

In the district adjoining the last, one battalion has no knapsacks. In 1885 it was, "An issue of knapsacks is much needed," and in 1886 it is again drawn attention to. If the requests of D.A.G.'s for really necessary stores be not complied with, I cannot see the use of their making inspections. In the same district, one city corps, which contributed four companies towards a force held in readiness for the North-West, and which after leaving headquarters were "supplied en route with full supply of further equipment required," has, we are told one year later, "had no knapsacks issued to it." Didn't they receive them en route?

In another district "the knapsacks are unserviceable"; the Oliver vatisse being asked for. You will probably get that ten years hence.

One D.A.G. says that he thinks 8 surgeons and 4 hospital sergeants in a camp of 1,000 men are too many. I would likewise say that as 1,000 men represent the war establishment of an Imperial regiment, there were too many lieutenant-colonels, majors, captains, etc. All the same, of "regimental pills" there are too many, also paymasters; their pay would be far better spent on a qualified musketry instructor.

In the GAZETTE of the 7th July last, you notice a report drawn up by the medical officers present at the Ottawa camp, who drew attention "to the unsuitable nature of the head gear, and of the uniform generally for summer service" and the lack of medical supplies. The last I won't bother about—that's a tip I have taken from the authorities. The head gear we have had over and over again—sometimes the department sponges on the officers and men for them; other times on municipal councils. If the department could not furnish more than "a few hundred" for the 5,000 men in the North-West, there is very little chance of getting them now. These "few hundred" were a collection made between Ottawa and Montreal. A forage cap is a capital article for a boiling hot day—to get a sunstroke in—paying the unfortunate man's widow as much as would have supplied the whole district with helmets.

We have been told that militiamen have a habit of unbuttoning their tunics during

drills, camps, etc., and altogether presenting a slovenly appearance. "Necessity knows no laws," and on this acts the man buttoned up in a tunic intended for both summer and winter wear. The forage cap is also a most desirable article for winter wear, thermometer a couple of degrees below zero, and you expect a parade of men in those little caps—but they don't appear in them; if they appear at all, it is, officers and men, in their every-day fur caps. Of course there are exceptions to every rule. My corps, the "Half-Equipped," wear Persian lamb caps, overcoats, green facings, plenty of gold lace—the latter keeps out the cold more than anything else.

The so called rifle we have had enough of, the forage cap is unsuitable, so is the tunic, the overcoat we seldom use, knapsacks have never been issued, likewise canteens, haversacks nobody mentions, bayonets so-so, belts are rotten, pouches wanting, clothing very inferior, gun-carriages rotten, guns obsolete, tents often leaky. Is there anything else I could mention in a kindly way? Yes—paylist most acceptable, although rates are low.

Ottawa.

CROSS COUNTRY steeplechasing has been added to the list of the snowshoeing diversions of the 43rd Rifles. The first run took place on Monday evening last, from the Drill Hall to Billings' Bridge, a distance of about three miles. The contest was for teams of five each, chosen by lot, and five teams started. Corp. Wills, the club champion, was the first individual to cross the finishing line; Corp. Dowler came next, three minutes later, and close on his heels were McLennan, Clendinnen, Bray, Jones, Toby Allan, Young, Evans and Popham, in that order. The last contingent struggled in twenty minutes after the first man. Points being counted, it was found that the contest had been won by No. 4 team, scoring 78 points, the second team having 77 to its credit, and the fifth and last 73. The winning team consisted of Messrs. Allan, Young, Evans, Popham and Quinney; the team had kept remarkably close together, the members coming in seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth and eighteenth respectively. Supper was served at Billings bridge, and the Rifles were subsequently driven into town.

Peter Logan, formerly a soldier, but since 1868 a messenger in the Secretary of State's department, died in this city on Monday. He had been superannuated a couple of years on account of age and infirmities. The deceased in his early days served in the Royal Artillery. He had had charge of the Military Racquet Courts at Woolwich, Eng., and at Quebec, and was at one time known as the champion racquet player of America.

Captain Robert Grant, late of the Vernon Company, No. 4, of the 43rd Battalion, died on Friday last at his home in Vernon. Captain Grant was connected with the regiment for a very long period, and on his retirement from active service a few years ago carried with him the warmest respect and esteem of the regiment. The Metcalfe company of the 56th buried the deceased with military honours.

Halifax.

LOSTFORD WOOLRICH, a second lieutenant in the 63rd Rifles, Halifax, suicided at Sydney, C.B., on the 17th inst. He was a traveller for the dry goods house of W. & C. Silver, Halifax, and had gone to Sydney on their business. He had engaged a team to drive out to visit a young lady to whom he was engaged to be married, but half an hour before the time appointed for the start he hung himself with a small satchel strap in the sample room of the McKenzie House. When found he was dead. On the table were his militia commission, and a letter to his mother in which he said: "I am subjected to great trouble. I have committed a great sin, but I shall be happy shortly. May God help me to carry out my designs. Farewell." He had formerly been engaged to a Halifax lady, but the affair had been terminated owing to opposition on the part of his family, and this is said to have been the "great trouble" preying upon his mind, rendering him temporarily insane. The deceased was the son of T. V. Woolrich, of Halifax, and was about twenty-five years of age. At the time the Halifax provisional battalion started for the North-West, he was in New York, holding a good position, but having hastened to Montreal he there joined the battalion, and was made a sergeant in Capt. Cunningham's company. He was gazetted a second lieutenant last spring. The officers of the 63rd have passed a resolution of condolence with his family.

At the annual meeting of the officers of the 63rd Rifles, held last week, Major Egan and Lieuts. James and Bent were elected a band committee, and Lieuts. Gunning and Sircom auditors of the regimental accounts. The meeting adjourned until the 1st prox.

The case of Captain Fortune, of the 63rd Rifles, who claims indemnity from the government for injuries sustained to his foot in the North-West campaign, is again being considered by the authorities. A medical board, and an officers' board consisting of the D.A.G., Captain Cunningham, of the 63rd, and Capt. Chipman, of the 66th, have been deliberating on the matter. Capt. Fortune about a year ago received captain's full pay for three months, about \$300, and latterly has been under medical treatment at the government's expense.

ONTARIO ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Ontario Artillery Association for consideration of Annual Reports and transaction of General Business will be held at the

ROSSIN HOUSE, AT TORONTO,

—ON—

Tuesday, 7th February, prox.,

AT 12 O'CLOCK NOON.

A MEETING OF COUNCIL

Is also called to meet at the same place at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, the 7th February prox., to consider Report for presentation to the Annual General Meeting, etc.

L. HOMFRAY IRVING,
Secretary.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,
Toronto, 4th January, 1888.

ONTARIO ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

PROPOSED ALTERATIONS IN CONSTITUTION. IN accordance with Section 8 of the Constitution of the Ontario Artillery Association, notice to members thereof is hereby given that I have received a notice of motion, in writing, that it is intended to propose the following alterations in the Constitution at the General Meeting to be held at Toronto on the 7th February, 1888:—

"That Section 9 be omitted, the following being substituted therefor: The affairs of the Association shall be managed by an Executive Committee consisting of five members to be annually elected at the General Meeting. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be members of this Committee.

"That Section 10 be omitted, the following being substituted therefor: The officers shall be a President and four Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer, to be elected at the Annual General Meeting. That all words inconsistent with these changes be eliminated from the Constitution."

L. HOMFRAY IRVING,
Toronto, 10th Jan., 1888. Secretary.

BANDMASTER WANTED.

BANDMASTER wanted for 7th Fusiliers.—Applications will be received up to the 31st January, 1888; duties to commence 1st April. Salary, \$300 per annum. Applicants will state age, experience, etc., and give references. Apply to MAJOR W. M. GARTSHORE, Pres. Band Com. 7th Fus., London, Ont.