

THE VOLUNTEER OFFICERS.

(St. John, N. B., Gazette.)

An Ottawa paper, which is supposed to represent the interests of the militia of Canada, states broadly the doctrine, that an officer of the Canadian militia ought to be a man of wealth and social position. This idea is one that could hardly be entertained outside of the sacred circle at Ottawa and which if carried out in practice would have the effect of sadly reducing the staff of our militia. By far the greater number of our officers of the militia are not men of wealth and we think that, as a rule, it may be said that their efficiency is in proportion to their lack of fortune. We do not need to go far to find examples to illustrate this great truth.

Our contemporary hardly does us justice in misquoting our remarks thus. What we did say was, that to properly fill the higher commands to which all officers eventually aspire they should have *means*—not wealth, as quoted—and good social position. And in this view we feel sure we will have the hearty approval of the whole force. One of the most frequent sources of difficulty in the militia is occasioned by men who, admitted as subalterns, without much consideration beyond the necessity of the moment, have been rapidly promoted until they reach the rank of field officer. Then it is found that the qualities which made them successes as juniors—energy, activity and bonhomie—are not what are wanted in the senior; and if they are not equipped with means to meet the expenses of their outfit, as well as the constant drain upon their purses for all manner of calls for the encouragement of the different interests of the regiment, it suffers accordingly, the dignity of the service is lowered.

The statement that as a rule the efficiency of the officers of the militia is in proportion to their lack of fortune, can only have been made in a spirit of recklessness utterly regardless of facts. There are very few officers of the militia whom we know of holding high commands, not possessed of either means or social standing, whom it would not be an advantage to the force to be free from.

While these requisites are not as essential in the subalterns as in the seniors, it must always be borne in mind that promotion is rapid in the militia, and a very few years' service frequently advances a second lieutenant to a field officer's rank, and it is then he begins to feel his disadvantages and his corps to suffer from them. It is therefore always to be borne in mind that as the Presidency is open to every citizen of the United States, so is the Colonelcy of his regiment open to every sub—if he lives long enough—and while all that is necessary to make a most valuable sub is zeal, energy and intelligence, more is required from a commanding officer, and the admission of every sub is the appointment of a prospective C. O.

A REMINISCENCE OF ACTIVE SERVICE.

Last September a portion on the militia force of Ottawa was ordered out to assist the civic authorities of Hull in preserving order during the strike of the Chaudiere millmen.

After one day's service in the millyards the men were marched back to Ottawa and dismissed. It was three months or more, however, before they were paid for their day's work in September, and when a couple of members of No. 1 Co., 43rd Battalion received their 50-cent pieces, they felt that such valuable curiosities ought not to be passed off as ordinary half dollars.

So taking them to a well known jeweller's they had the reverse sides smoothed and inscribed:

Presented to
Pte.
as a reward for services
rendered at the Strikers'
Riots in Hull.
15th September, 1891.

A small ring in the top and a good polish on Her Majesty's head completed very pretty little medals which it is their intention to hand down to their descendants to the tenth generation, as evidence of the prowess and martial ability of their forefathers.

Not the least interesting feature of one of these medals is that it had already cost its possessor four or five times its value, owing to the action of the government in docking the pay of the extra clerks who were absent on duty on that occasion.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The annual report of the National Rifle Association for its thirty-second year has been issued by the Council. The financial statement says that the diminution in the attendance at the last Bisley meeting considerably affected the revenue of the year. There was a decrease in the receipts from all sources amounting to £2,391, and though this was partly met by a reduction in the charges against revenue account of £875, there is still left on the year's working the large deficit of £1,588. The items to which this falling off is most attributable are entry payment for the competitions and admission of the public, together with loss of the rent of the pavilion, from which the catering contractors were released on account of their considerable losses in the two years the prize meeting has been held at Bisley. During the past twelve months a large amount of work has been done upon the ranges and the Association's Bisley property generally which will be of permanent value. The receipts from all sources during the year were £22,724, and the expenditure £29,448, there being thus an excess of expenditure over receipts of

£6,724, this amount being due to the bankers. The Council state that all possible economy is being exercised, but that the financial success of the prize meeting must depend almost entirely upon the number of competitors; and therefore the friends of the Association are strongly urged to assist in increasing the number of members and of competitors in the many prize series. For the greater convenience of the latter and of visitors it is hoped to further improve the train service.

ONTARIO ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.

The seventh annual meeting of the Ontario Artillery Association was held in the rooms of the Canadian Military Institute, at 94½ King street west, last week. Major J. H. Mead, of the Toronto Field Battery, occupied the chair in the absence of the president, Major King, of Welland, who was in Ottawa and found it impossible to attend. Among those present were Major Mead, T. F. B.; Lieut.-Col. W. E. O'Brien, M. P.; Major W. Nicol, Guelph; Capt. J. S. Hendrie, Hamilton; H. V. Knight, 22nd Battalion; Mr. R. Myles (treasurer), and L. H. Irving (secretary). The report was adopted as read. In the report was a proposition that the artillery officers be provided with canvas tunics for use in camp, as the wear and tear on their uniforms attendant on their duties while engaged with the artillery carriages was very great and soon destroyed the uniforms. These tunics they said, could be provided for about two dollars and a half per man, and had been promised them by the Minister of Militia in 1888, but as yet no action had been taken. They desired that the new committee would attend to the matter. The committee also thanked the various newspapers in the city for reports of meetings during the past year. The election of officers for 1892 was then proceeded with, and resulted as follows:—President—Major J. H. Mead, Toronto Field Battery. Vice-Presidents—Lt.-Col. F. C. Denison, C. M. G., Toronto; Lt.-Col. A. H. McDonald, Guelph; Major J. D. Stewart, Ottawa; Major F. King, Welland. Executive Committee—Major W. McLean, Port Hope; Major W. Nicol, Guelph; Major J. Davidson, Guelph; Capt. J. S. Hendrie, Hamilton; Capt. McNachtan, Cobourg. Hon. Secretary—Mr. L. H. Irving, Treasurer—Mr. Robert Myles. Auditor—Mr. S. V. Percival. The newly-elected president then in a neat speech presented the Association challenge cup to Major W. Nicol, of Guelph. The cup is awarded to the officer making the highest score in the matches during the year. Major Nicol in replying said what great pleasure it gave him to be the third Guelphite to win the much-coveted cup. Afterwards he filled it with sparkling champagne and all drank success to the victorious winner.