

For commanding officer .....	\$200
For captains of companies—\$40 × 8 .....	320
Total .....	\$520

Should it not drill, the c. o. gets \$100 and the captains \$160, a total of \$260. In city corps, \$40 per annum per company is paid to the officer commanding, and with an eight company battalion he receives—and he only—\$320. Nothing for captains.

Now let us look at the matter of drill instruction money a little closer. The Major-General in his last report says: "I am very much afraid that \* \* the men of the rural corps, in many cases, do not receive much drill instruction, except at the camps." I don't doubt that for one moment. With one corps all ranks are reported "perfectly ignorant of their duties," but "after drawing upon other corps for drilled officers and n. c. o., they managed to pass muster." I wonder if \$325 worth of instruction money was spent upon this corps? There is no use going further than saying that no matter how inefficient a corps is, it is invariably paid its drill allowance, and some commanding officers must have very little hesitation in signing a certificate as to the performance of service for which payment is required. In the years during which rural corps do not go to camp, I wonder how many corps drill at all. What becomes of that year's money?

#### CARE OF ARMS AND MUSKETRY INSTRUCTION.

To the captain of each company of infantry is paid \$40 per annum for care of arms of such corps as are not kept in public armouries under charge of a caretaker paid by the militia department: "With respect to the arms, accoutrements, etc., I find a great difference in the way they are cared for by the different captains; very few are really well looked after."

Perhaps the captains think care uncalled for, as "the rifles have become inaccurate from long service and pretty rough usage," and "the equipment is of very old pattern, a too great proportion constantly requiring repair, which after all the trouble and expense only remains serviceable for a short time"; or perhaps they say that "the rifles are unserviceable and some absolutely dangerous to the firer," or that they might go off by themselves, and consequently are better left alone. So they don't bother themselves.

Paragraph 426 tells us all about rifle shooting. Five simple rules—some power of judging distance and a knowledge of the influence of wind on the flight of a bullet, is all that is required to enable a man to become a good practical shot; an idea of position drill, which we are told can be learnt whilst being instructed in the Manual and Firing Exercises. There's no mystery in it all. In the *Firing Exercises* the soldier is instructed, as I understand it, by the Adjutant and Sergeant-Major in the positions of *loading* and *firing in the ranks*; in *position drill*, the Musketry Instructor devotes his attention to the essentials of *good individual firing*. The five simple rules, let me suggest, might with advantage be cut out and glued on the back sight—just as useful there as in the red book.

That officers themselves do not always attend to these five simple rules, &c., is evident, for we are told "a large majority of officers are unacquainted with the firing exercise, position drill and aiming drill"; and "adjusting the back sight and making allowance for wind appeared to be a matter of no consequence, some officers quietly watching their men firing at 400 yards with elevation for 200 yards, and vice versa." The scores at another camp were not large, "but taking into consideration the fact that a large proportion were recruits who never shot a rifle before, the average is very fair." But the average is not told us. Doctors differ, you know. Another officer tells us that "50 per cent. of his camp were third class shots, and that our shooting may be called bad."

I am not Suggester-General to the militia, but if I were, I should suggest that the \$25 per company for commanding officers and the \$20 for drill instruction money for corps which do not drill, be diverted into another channel, and that channel is \* \*

Isn't it about time that "Pipeclay" turned out that guard?

LINCH-PIN.

Hamilton.

THE officers of the Thirteenth Battalion, Hamilton Field Battery, and a few prominent gentlemen were entertained to a dinner in the Hamilton Club on Saturday evening, by the commanding officer of the Thirteenth, Lieut.-Col. Gibson. There were about thirty-five gentlemen present, among whom were: Senator Sanford, Adam Brown, M.P., Ex-Mayor McKay, M.P., Lt.-Col. Gibson, Majors Moore, McLaren and Barnard; Captains Stoneman, Adams, Stuart, Zealand, Gillespie, Mewburn, Moore and Reid; Lieutenants Watson, Tidswell, Cameron, Ross, Bowman, Carpenter, Osborne and Chapman; Surgeons Ryall and Griffin, of the 13th; and Capt. Hendrie, and Lieuts. Bankier and Duncan of the Hamilton Field Battery. The Colonel on this occasion excelled himself as a host and entertainer. The *menu* was such as could not fail to satisfy the most critical epicure. After dinner the toast of the Queen was proposed and drunk in the manner customary with her Majesty's loyal subjects. The evening was spent in songs, recitations, humorous stories and frolicsome games. Three rousing cheers having been given for the gallant Colonel, the National anthem was sung, and at 11.30 p.m. the party broke up after spending a most enjoyable evening.

The new drill hall is progressing slowly towards completion. The cold weather has prevented the contractors from prosecuting the work as rapidly as they would like, so it will be some time yet before the regiment will be able to drill in it. However, they are not idle, and each company puts in two drills every week in the armoury, James St. S.

#### AN ARTILLERY PROBLEM.

"Arthur Wodehouse" has addressed himself to the editor of the *Times* in this perplexing fashion:—

"SIR,—We have a bet of \$25 to \$10. A cannon is at the front of a train moving fifty miles an hour, and another cannon is on the ground stationary. Both cannon are equal in power. When the train is exactly opposite the cannon on the ground, both are fired. Which ball goes the farther?"

The specification here is not as complete as it might be, but it may safely be reckoned that Arthur desires to be told what effect if any the motion of a train from which a cannon ball was fired, in the same direction as the train was going, would have upon the flight of the ball. Will any reader of the MILITIA GAZETTE come forward with the desired information?

Ottawa.

ABOUT twenty non-commissioned officers and men of the Governor-General's Foot Guards attended at the drill hall on Monday evening, at the regular meeting of the non-commissioned officers' class of instruction, established last week. Capt. Hodgins, the adjutant, announced that he would be assisted in conducting the class by Sergeant Henrichs, who last year passed very creditably at "B" School, and will make an excellent instructor. On Monday the class were examined in the first six sections

of Squad Drill With Intervals. On Saturday night next, it having been determined to have two meetings this week, the next sixteen sections, relating to marching, will be taken up.

It is announced that Col. Macpherson has decided not to sanction any further provisional appointments of non-commissioned officers.

No. 2 company of the Guards had their annual dinner on Thursday evening last, at the Dominion Hall. There was a large attendance, including the three officers, Capt. Toller and Lieuts. Gray and Watters, and several members of the staff of the regiment. The orders respecting the *menu* were published on a very neatly designed card, fairly bristling with military pointers.

On Tuesday the 17th inst., the non-commissioned officers of No. 1 company held their regular monthly mess meeting. The regimental snowshoe club had an outing the same evening, when the conditions were admirable for the enjoyment of the sport.

The Dragoon Guards' club inaugurated their season's tramping on Tuesday evening, when they had an exceedingly creditable turn out.

After their regular weekly tramp on Monday evening, the 43rd Rifles snowshoe club were entertained at the headquarters of No. 6 company, New Edinburgh Ward, where Lieut.-Col. Lewis, the brigade-major, honoured them with a visit. Among the officers of the regiment present at the outing were Lieut.-Col. White, Major Anderson, Capt. and Adjutant Evans, Capt. Sherwood and Capt. Bell.

#### The "Boys" of the '85 Campaign.

WE thought them and called them and held them "Our Boys"—they are *men*;  
They have stood at the lip of the cannon and felt its hot breath;  
They have heard the hiss of the ball, and again and again  
They have looked in the face of death.

We sent them away to the battle with many a sigh,  
With many a tremor of heart and with many a tear;  
And now that the day is their own, let each shadow go by,  
And welcome them home with a cheer!

So welcome them back to their mothers and sweethearts and wives,  
And remember forever and ever, whatever befall,  
That in perilous moments they gallantly perilled their lives,  
And honour them each one and all!

George Frederick Cameron.

#### Correspondence.

SOMETHING EASIER, PLEASE.

To the Editor of the *Canadian Militia Gazette*:

SIR,—Can you acquaint me with the means—if it be a possibility—by which a young man with first class military qualifications may be successful in getting a commission in the permanent infantry corps, if he lack but "powerful political influence." MARS.

#### THE COMPARATIVE WEAKNESS OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE.

To the Editor of the *Canadian Militia Gazette*:

SIR,—In your last issue, under the caption of "Garrison Artillery," you have a short notice of Sir Chas. Dilke's articles in the *Fortnightly Review* on "The present position of the Army," in which the writer takes a pessimistic view of England's unpreparedness in the event of being forced into a contest without allies or necessary preparations.

The late Pasha Baker says if England, Germany, Austria, Italy and Turkey were allied it would be impossible to create a war in Europe.

There is also the opinion of an American expert, who thinks that in the event of war "Canada could get no help from England, which would be sure to be menaced by Russia, and that the Russians would be able to capture Victoria, B.C."

Those essayists fairly remind one of what demented persons will do if firearms fall into their hands. The writer knew a *mad doctor* who would not fear a patient armed with a double-barrelled gun because the madman was sure to leave out either the cartridge or priming.

Now those British essayists will not take the trouble of looking at what changes are now being wrought out in matters political, naval and military.

It is hardly twelve months since the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway entirely altered the relations between Great Britain and the continental powers of Europe, as it rendered her wholly independent of them.

It is a little over one hundred years since she fought all Europe single handed, and won an Empire to balance the loss of the British colonies in America.

English essayists on military matters have always a theory or a fact to ground their objections on. In this case both the General and Knight were sorely exercised in discovering a country in which an army corps of 50,000 of all arms can be employed. Where to carry it to or how to dispose of it was the next question. All reasonable ideas were cast aside but still the mythical corps was like Mahomet's coffin—between earth and heaven.

The only foe that can be troublesome to England is Russia. The morbid sensitiveness she excites is due to the meddling of ignorant politicians, and when it is known that she really is a very insignificant foe comparatively it will be no matter for surprise if her pretensions are treated with contempt.

England's defence is the seaboard of her Empire. She has five strategical lines to defend at sea—that furnished by the line from Liverpool to Halifax, thence by rail to Port Moody, on the Pacific, and thence to Yokohama, in Japan. The other lines are those which guard the east and west shores of the coast of America; those which guard the North and South Atlantic and Australia, and North and South Pacific.

Russia's chance of creating trouble is confined to the Island of Saghalien, in 51°06 N. latitude, and it acts as a breakwater to the mouth of the Amoor River. The Baltic is her most extensive seaboard, but this inland sea is frozen for four months each year and can be closed by an efficient squadron. She shares this sea with Germany, Sweden and Denmark, and does not figure conspicuously in history there anent. Her next littoral is the Euxine or Black Sea, which is shared with Turkey, and from which she was all but cleaned out during the Crimean war.

All the fuss she has made and her advances to India have only one object in view and that is to create a row, and before its conclusion make shift to get some small compensation in the scramble—as witness Batoum, Kars, or in 1877.

If Great Britain will do her duty—keep demagogues out of her councils—she can raise armies in India sufficient to over-run the whole territory of that sham Colossus of the North.

At page 155 of the MILITIA GAZETTE there will be found an exhaustive review of this whole question.

OBSERVER.