



AN IMPORTANT QUERY.

Editor CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—I would like to ask a question with reference to the team shooting in No. 2 Military District, inaugurated by Lieut.-Col. Otter, and that is: Can it be considered that all the competing corps are on an equal footing?

It costs the three Toronto corps nothing, while the outlying corps will have to pay from \$20 to \$50 per team, and as each Toronto corps will probably enter two teams, it means from \$50 to \$100 handicap in their favor.

It seems to me that if the new Minister of Militia cannot see his way to paying the expenses of outside teams, that at least all expenses should be pooled and the battalions interested pay in the same proportion.

The Toronto regiments cannot fairly object to this, and without some such arrangement is made, the outlying battalions are not likely to take part.

Yours truly,

MAJOR.

September 12, 1896.

[This is an important point and quite worthy the immediate consideration of the Toronto officer. The principle suggested has been recognized on former occasions by the Toronto corps paying their share of the expenses of the 13th and 38th attending a field day in Toronto.—ED. C. M. GAZETTE.]

RECRUITING FOR FALL CAMPS.

Editor MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—In answer to our comrade "Sentry," re "Fall Camps," I should like to bring to his and our readers' notice a few facts, having put in a fall camp only six years ago at Niagara.

I think with him that all time possible should be given us to get things into shape, but do not blame the Government, as we are supposed to keep our companies full strength or nearly so, and unless we do we cannot enter men in C.M.R.L., O.R.A., D.R.A., etc., teams, or send six or more N.C.O.'s to school. Now, Mr. Editor, it is done in No. 2 M.D. by some companies, and I will give the receipt, as I had to work it out myself some six years ago until the present time; it takes time, tact, a little money and self-sacrifice (if such a word should be used or thought of by a soldier): First, open up drill shed once or twice a week, fit up a room for reading, cards and games allowed by H.M. Regulations, the outer shed as an athletic room; divide the time between drill and pleasure; don't absent yourself; stand on the dignity of a gentleman bearing H.M.'s commission. I think you will soon hear the cry of poor companies die out; it has with me, therefore it can with all, or nearly so. That will cover a lot of complaints with regard to turning out, make us respected, and build up a soldierly spirit in the young men. Regarding fall camps in 1890, we had a most pleasant camp, not losing an hour's drill by bad weather, and we did not go down till the 8th of October, returning October 22. The men were well full of good useful work, and willing to try it again. I am sorry I cannot say the same of June camps after some 13 years' experience.

Now, I would ask some interested to bring the advantages of

serge clothing before the Government. Of course, for drill purposes only. It would save money, and make our tunics last twice as long as at present, and at the same time place our men in the working uniform, as used by all troops for such training. Trusting I am not taking up too much of your valuable paper, the only mouthpiece of a soldier,

I am, sir, yours, etc.,

ALLISTER, No. 2 M.D.

M.D. No. 2, Sept. 8, 1896.

THE LEADING LEAGUE TEAM.

The Toronto correspondent of The Gazette is lacking in judgment when he writes that the Gzowski Cup competition was weighed in the balance and found wanting, seeing that the corps coming out on top have for three years maintained their place in the annual competition, and no doubt can be cast upon the inspecting officer.

In a recent issue he also had something to say about the League shooting, and he referred to the test that was before the League shoots at Ottawa and Toronto. His attention is now called by the leading League team in the Dominion to the score made in the Walker Match competition.

A MEMBER OF THE CITY CORPS, NO 2 DISTRICT.

GENERAL NOTES.

WE have received word from Pittaway, photographer, Ottawa, that he will be unable to have photographs of cups ready for next issue. He has been written to stating not to go on with them, so in that case there will only be photographs of the three officers, who will forward them direct to Toronto. They are: Lieut.-Col. Macpherson, treasurer, Lieut.-Col. Bacon, secretary, and Lieut.-Col. Hodgins, executive officer.

We have just received copies of G. Butler & Son's, London, Eng., illustrated catalogues of band instruments. Butler's instruments have a world-wide reputation, they supplying regiments not only in the United Kingdom, but to Governments in all parts of the world. They make a specialty of instruments to be used in foreign climates. Their prices are reasonable, and bandmasters, before purchasing, would do well to write for one of their illustrated catalogues.

Messrs. Besson & Co., London, Eng., have lately been taking a great interest in the furtherance of Welsh bands, having presented North and South Wales band associations with cups for competition. They also supplied the band associations with engraved certificates for proficiency, and received permission from the Prince of Wales to use the Royal and historic plumes and motto on the cups and certificates.

While the Victoria companies of the 5th R.C.A. were returning from Vancouver the other day on board the steamer Charmer a circle was made round H.M.S. Comus, and the artillerymen, under Major Gregory, exchanged courtesies with the warship's company, and the band of the regiment played "Rule Britannia." Cheers were afterwards given and returned, another pleasant item being added to the many of a delightful outing. The headquarters' band was much thought of while in the Terminal City.

Messrs. John Martin, Son & Co. have received samples of the new regulation active service caps as worn by all branches of the Imperial service. It is not expected that they will be generally adopted by the Canadian militia until next year, as so little time has been allowed to prepare for camps.

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