

In looking over the Militia Report of 1875 some companies did not muster even the 42, showing that, whatever muster the government should authorize as the required strength, probably the quota would not be forthcoming, even if reduced to less than at present, viz., 42. No doubt popular Captains can keep up these companies to their strength; but it does not follow that popular captains are the most efficient; in some instances the unpopular captain is the best officer and causes his unpopularity by a too great zeal for the service.

All Battalions and corps should be removed from the Militia List which do not keep up their strength as required by Law.

Many Battalions are mere skeletons and do not deserve the name. It is very hard for Colonels commanding and Captains of Companies to do what is required when they have not men sufficient, especially undergoing Battalion movements and company drill.

A battalion in Camp say consisting of 200 men with all the details left out for duties in Camp, leaves a small number for a Commanding officer to manoeuvre in field movements, skin mashing &c.; a company is even worse off so as to be divided into half companies and sections.

Fines.—To have a proper Militia System, the ballot and compulsory service will have to be substituted.

ONE WHO HAS SERVED IN THE LINE.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—The appearance of the Dress Regulations has given great satisfaction to those officers who have hitherto been in doubt as to the correctness of their uniform, but as certain information is still required, will you kindly furnish answers to the following questions.

1. Are Rifles in full dress to wear bushy, chaco, or forage cap?
2. With the exception of Artillery does any other branch of the service wear great coats and of what description?
3. Are those officers who have retired from Cavalry, Artillery, &c., denominated *unattached officers*, and why are they obliged to provide themselves with Infantry outfit?
4. When are the Regulations relating to the dress of the men to be issued?
5. When are these Regulations to be enforced, and at whose expense are the changes to be made?

ROYAL BLUE.

Our correspondent forgot to enclose his name along with his communication—and to insert without is contrary to our published rule—but as it refers only to asking questions, in regard to the recent published dress regulations, we have departed from this rule, and give it publicity as well as answer the questions put. But in the future no communication will be inserted in

the columns of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW no matter what's its nature, unless the name of the writer is given along with the fictitious one, the latter *only* for publication.

Answer to 1st question—Those who desire to procure bushies may do so—or a chaco may be worn.

2nd. Regulations relating to great coats will be published soon.

3rd. An officer who retires retaining his rank is not considered unattached. Officers retiring from any corps retaining rank are permitted to wear the uniform of their corps on all occasions where they are permitted to appear in uniform.

The replies to the 4th and 5th questions would no doubt be supplied by the Militia Department if application is made to the Deputy Adjutant General of the District.—Ed. Vol. Rev.

The Rifle.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OTTAWA RIFLE CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Ottawa Rifle Club took place at the Club Rooms on Tuesday evening at eight o'clock, the President, Mr. Langton, in the chair. The Secretary laid on the table the score book for last season, showing each day's practice carefully recorded, and the whole summarized, so that each member could see at a glance his merit rank. The riflemen turned out in full force, every corps in the city being represented, as well as a number of private citizens. The secretary's report shewed a very satisfactory state of affairs. It referred with approval to the importation of steel barrels, and hoped to see the number in the possession of the Club largely increased during the next season, but warned those ordering them, that the Dominion Rifle Association did not recognize the rule of the National Rifle Association as to "checkered" stocks, and that until they did so, it was better to keep this in mind if they proposed competing in the matches of that Association. During the season there were thirty-two regular Club days, the average attendance being thirteen, and the total number of rounds expended about seven thousand. This refers to Snider practice only, the returns for the small bore practices, which took place once a week, not having been sent in. The report spoke very highly indeed of the working of the Brunel target, the inventor of which is the Vice President of the Club. The Associations affiliated with were the Quebec, Ontario and the Dominion, the fee for the latter being paid by subscription, and not taken from the funds. At the Quebec matches, the team won fourth prize, and the members of it many individual prizes. At Toronto, every man composing the district team that won the Gzowski cup, with one exception, were members of the club, and the result must be largely attributed to the regular and careful practice that took place during the season. The committee expressed their thanks to Mr. Deslauriers for taking charge of the ammunition, which was a source of great convenience to the competitors. The report concluded by calling the attention of the members to one result attained by the formation of the club, namely the bringing together of the members of the different corps of the city

on a friendly footing, and thus fostering an amicable intercourse that would go far toward destroying any petty jealousies that might exist. The statement of receipts and expenditure was then read, which showed that after paying all expenses in connection with the formation of the club, a marker during the summer, part of the expenses of the teams sent to Montreal and Toronto, score books, etc., a balance of \$58 remained on hand with which to commence the new season.

Votes of thanks for their services were passed to the retiring officers, after which the election for the present year took place, resulting as follows: President, Mr. John Langton; Vice Presidents, Lt. Col. Brunel and Major Anderson; Secretary Treasurer, Capt. Todd; Committee of Management, Messrs. Pattee, Harris and Dr. Malloch.

The Ottawa Rifle Club, having for its object "the encouragement of rifle shooting, and the introduction into the Dominion of rifles of the most improved patterns," and being open to civilians as well as volunteers, deserves and we hope will succeed in obtaining a large share of public favor. Last year the number of members was fifty, but when the advantages of such a club are thoroughly understood, the number will undoubtedly be greatly increased. The entrance fee is only \$2, and annual subscription \$2, and for this amount any person can practice with the Snider, on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and the small bore on Mondays, the club providing markers, targets, registers, &c. Many men who had given up shooting for years took up their rifles again last summer and many more will doubtless follow their example during the ensuing season. After the regular business of the meeting was over, reference was made to the speech recently delivered by Captain Macpherson, at the annual general meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association, and in which serious charges of extravagance and incapacity were made. Entire harmony was expressed with the course pursued, and thanks expressed to Captain Macpherson for the bold stand he had taken, and it being the evident and unanimous wish of the meeting, that further steps should be taken to cure a great and growing evil, a committee, composed of the President, Major Anderson, Captain Todd, Mr. Malloch, and Mr. Sutherland, was appointed to look further into the matter, and report at the next monthly meeting.—Free Press.

PARLIAMENTARY.—The following items in the estimates were passed in committee of the whole on Thursday evening:—Militia Pensions, \$1 352; New Militia Pensions, \$5,629.25; Pensions to Veterans of 1812, \$50,000; Pay, maintenance and equipment of A and B Batteries Garrison Artillery and School of Gunnery, Kingston and Quebec, \$110,000; Military Schools, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, \$10,000.

A postscript edition of the *Daily News* just issued, contains the following:—"Alexandria, Egypt, Sunday, March 12th, 9:45 p.m.—On Wednesday night last the Abyssinian army crossed the River Decasa and attacked the entrenched camp of the Egyptian army, when severe fighting took place. On Thursday the Abyssinians were repulsed and retreated to Ledowa. King Cassa, Grand Vizier, six chiefs and 5,000 Abyssinians, are reported to have been killed in the trenches. Prince Hassam and General Loring escaped unhurt. Rhabib Pasha was wounded. The Egyptian losses were heavy, but the victory was complete."