

go to and from the range by rail five or six times a year free of expense, or at any rate a sufficient number of times to complete class-firing. An arrangement should be made between the military authorities and the railway companies, so that the former might obtain, at a reduced rate, railway tickets when going to shoot at the ranges. The less well-to-do of the corps are at present at a great disadvantage, in comparison with the better-to-do regiments, in respect of practice on the ranges; and as free ammunition is already issued by the Government for the purposes of class-firing, a further concession should be made, and arrangements should be made, not only for the ammunition, but for free railway passes to the different ranges from the nearest railway stations to the headquarters of the companies, for the purpose of using that ammunition; and, if that were done, the present minimum of firing at a target, viz., twenty-one rounds, if a man obtains 30 points in firing through his third class, should be increased to forty-nine rounds, the minimum number of rounds necessary to firing all three classes and becoming a marksman. The lecturer said he hoped the day was near when prizes would be allotted in far larger proportion than at present to volley firing and field firing competitions. Individual target practice was only a means to an end, and the donors of prizes should empower the National Rifle Association, in some cases at any rate, to alter prizes for individual firing into prizes for volley firing, and that regimental and company prize money should be devoted to the same end. He hoped the day was near when field firing by a battalion would become part of the annual training of every volunteer corps; but, of course, to do this there must be suitable ranges.

After referring to the camping regulations and the conditions of the higher and lower allowances, he said there was the strongest reason for requiring the attendance of volunteers of all ranks in camp, preferably under canvas, or else in barracks at a military station, for at least three days in every year; in addition to the usual company and battalion drills in the evening and on Saturday afternoons or bank holidays. In camp we get the full attention and time and energies of the volunteer. On Saturday afternoons he has generally done a hard week's work, and is to some extent tired or languid. We cannot teach him outpost or even sentry work, much less field work, such as digging shelter-trenches and hasty intrenchments, on an ordinary Saturday parade, held probably in a public park; and he has hardly time to give his mind and attention to his work and get into his stride, so to speak, before the parade is over.

Major Rickards would also suggest that a company of men, specially recommended by the captains of their companies, and approved by the commanding officer, should

be given facilities for being attached to a regular regiment at army manœuvres, a grant for proper expenses and rations, etc., of course, being given. He knew one case of a volunteer battalion that did attend the army manœuvres in Berkshire, and did their work to the satisfaction of the military officers in command. He doubted whether every volunteer battalion, as a whole, would be a welcome addition to a general's command at army manœuvres; but all volunteer battalions could send one, two or more serviceable companies to be attached to a regular regiment for such manœuvres. The Volunteer Act, 1895, provides for a part of a volunteer regiment being called out for actual military service, in which case they would form part of a regular regiment, and what is now proposed is a step in the same direction.

Regarding physical examination, the opinion was expressed that every volunteer, before he is enrolled, should be medically examined, and certified sound and fit for moderate military work. At present, the volunteer regulations require that a volunteer artilleryman must be 5 feet 6 inches in height, and have a chest measurement of at least 32 inches; and any other volunteer must be 5 feet 3 inches in height, with a chest measurement of 32 inches. This is not sufficient, even if it were adhered to; and he does not think it is necessary that the examination should be as severe as in the case of the regular, who may be sent to unhealthy climates, and have to undergo long periods of hard work and bad food and conditions in those climates. The fact that a man is a volunteer should mean that he is a man of sound and good physique, and able to exchange sedentary occupation, which is what the volunteer generally follows, for service in the field, without breaking down. The medical examination should be repeated at the end of every five or seven years.

With a view to attaining the foregoing object, namely, some guarantee that every volunteer is physically fit to do in the field what may be demanded of him, he contended that every possible encouragement should be given to gymnastic and athletic exercises. This was the more necessary, because by far the larger number of volunteers are engaged in strictly sedentary pursuits; and although the better-to-do members of the force belong to football, rowing, cricket and gymnastic clubs, there must be many corps whose members are not well enough off to join such clubs, and whose occupations, if not actually unhealthy, are far from conducive to physical development or condition. Every regiment should, if practicable, have a school of arms and some gymnastic apparatus, besides, if possible, football or cricket clubs, and more time should be given to physical drill and bayonet exercise than is at present the case.

ANOTHER NEW RIFLE.

Dr. S. N. McClean, of Washington, Iowa, has invented an army rifle that is causing much astonishment among military men wherever it is exhibited. He has entered it in competition before a committee of the State Legislature of New York, which was appointed to equip the National Guard of the State with 15,000 new rifles.

The rifle has been fully patented. A single straight movement of the hand loads and fires the rifle. It has a capacity of five cartridges at present, and is filled by one movement from a case containing the cartridges. It is so constructed that clogging of the rifle or derangement of the cartridges is impossible. It is somewhat lighter than other rifles of the kind. As a test for endurance 750 rounds were fired in succession and the accuracy remained faithful throughout.

INSTIL A LOVE OF COUNTRY.

"If I were to find any fault with our present system of education in England, it would be to point out how little attention is paid to instilling in the minds of boys and girls of England a love for the country to which they belong. I have spent a great many years in America, and I know the United States very well indeed, and it was always a matter of intense pleasure to me to go into an American school and hear the children taught the greatness of their own country; for though I did not always agree with the facts, which were not always facts and would not bear investigation, still it was a great thing that the children were being brought up with a feeling of conviction that they were the greatest nation in the world and were prepared to fight all creation. Well, we have learned a great deal of that patriotism, and had learned it before Board Schools were invented, but I confess I should like to see every Board School in this country teach that the first lesson the children had to learn was a love and admiration for the country and the Constitution under which we live and a determination to maintain that Constitution against all comers." So spoke Lord Wolseley at the Volunteers' Sergeants' Tactical Association.

It will come as news to Canadians to learn that they are slaves, and that their necks are under the iron heel of British oppression. This discovery has been made in Windsor, Ont., by a Canadian Independence Club, and the club is going to set Canada free. Such at least is the plan mapped out in long despatches which have been published in United States papers. It is an awful thing for us to be rudely awakened to a sense of our vile servitude, but all must be thankful for the noble men of Windsor who are prepared to strike the shackles from our wrists.—Montreal Herald.