

practical fashion, according to the climate in which they have to serve.

* * The Canadians are a very practical people; they do not want to have a mere parade dress such as is worn in England—a young country cannot afford the luxury of having two distinct descriptions of uniform—they merely desire a simple service dress adapted to the climate, and of some use when on active service.”

It is the easiest thing possible to say that the uniform and equipment is unsuitable, and we have no doubt the Minister of Militia would not be hard to convince on that point; but the difficulty in making a change would be in determining exactly what would meet the requirements of the case. Perhaps a decision could be arrived at most readily through the appointment of a commission as suggested. The expense of the change need not be great so far as the uniform is concerned, for having put up with the discomfort so long the militia would certainly be able to bear with it until the time for a new issue arrived in the natural course of events.

Current Topics.

The United States Secretary of War has authorized the manufacture of a quantity of coats and trousers for experimental issue to troops stationed in hot climates during the summer season.

South Australia has established a volunteer mounted infantry addition to its defensive force. The new branch numbers five hundred officers and men. An annual encampment, representative of all the forces, is in future to be held at Easter time.

The *Volunteer Record* complaining of the shallow nature of brigade drills in general, hints that the everlasting march-past is indulged in because the brigadiers don't know much about any other movements. Many of these officers, it says, “appear anything but at home when handling the brigades for the time being at their mercy.

The infantry soldiers of the Aldershot Division have been ordered to try the experiment of wearing the haversack over the left instead of the right shoulder, in all orders of dress. This is with a view of determining whether it interferes in any way with the other parts of the equipment, or the movements of the soldier, particularly when in marching order with a full haversack. The proposed change is connected with the question of extra ammunition for magazine rifles.

The British Government has lately been giving some attention to a new invention in cartridge pouches, rendered a necessity by the introduction of rapid firing rifles. The flap or cover of the pouches has hitherto proved an impediment to quick loading, as it had to be lifted each time a cartridge was to be extracted. In the new invention, however, the flap slides below the pouch, so as to be entirely out of the way when cartridges are to be extracted. The pouch has already been largely adopted in the United States, and also in Russia.

While the British military authorities are thinking out new systems of equipment and coat-folding for the infantry troops, the Germans are adopting a form of knapsack on a fresh model, which, says the *Mulhausen Express*, is not so large as the old pattern. The overcoat will be rolled round the top and sides of the knapsack, as in the French service under the Empire; mess tins, etc., will be carried on the top, and the water-bottle and haversack will be suspended from the waist-belt, one on each hip. The straps are so arranged that the chest and heart action of the soldier are not interfered with, while at the same time he has free use of his arms.

Capt. Greville Harston, of the 10th Royal Grenadiers, Toronto, has apparently impressed the Duke of Cambridge and the members of the British Headquarters Staff, with the merits of his device for converting the Martini rifle into a repeater. It will be remembered that Capt. Harston was summoned to England some months ago to explain his idea, and he has since been engaged in supervising the practical application of the invention to the Martini for trial purposes. The brief cable despatch announcing the success of his exhibition at the Horse Guards, states also the probability that a large number of Martinis will be converted at once.

Very applicable to Canada as well as to the mother country, is the following from the *Volunteer Record*: “Fencing, as an accomplishment, and also as a military art, is we opine too much neglected in England. As an accomplishment, it will endow the amateur with ease of bodily movements, grace and suppleness in peace, and with nerve, vigour and quickness of movement in war. The establishment of fencing classes in British volunteer corps, does not appear so difficult of promotion, and their maintenance and success could be readily assured by the many members who might desire to relax the sterner duties of winter drill under cover, by the pleasant and, at the same time, valuable pastime of “pinking” with foils.”

Gen. Montcalm's journal of his memorable campaign in Canada, of which a portion is in his own handwriting—the complete set of journals of Gen. de Levis' Canadian campaign from 1775 to 1790, with his own description of the second battle of the Plains of Abraham, in which he led the victorious French army, and other papers of great interest and importance, have just been discovered in France, and copies are about to be forwarded to the distinguished French-Canadian historian the Abbe Casgrain. The manuscripts have remained for over a century in the library of the castle of Noisiel, and have thus escaped up to the present all investigation. The present Comte de Nicolay, who discovered the treasures, is a great-grandson of Levis, and universal legatee of his late uncle, the third Duke de Levis—for the victor of St. Foye, or the second battle of the Plains, became, after his return from Canada, marshal of France, and subsequently Duke of Levis.

While the funds are being collected the sculptor entrusted with the erection of a monument to the memory of the British officers and men who fell at the battle of Waterloo, has completed the design of the work. The theme is Britannia returning from war and pausing to mourn over her fallen warriors lying buried in foreign soil, and whose tomb she leaves to the guard of lions. Brussels is about to break up the old intramural cemeteries of that city, including the Protestant burial ground, and to remove the tombs to the new cemetery at Evere, outside the town. In this burial ground lie the remains of eleven British officers and of many soldiers, who died of their wounds in Brussels after the battle of Waterloo. It is proposed to remove these remains, and those of the other British soldiers who were buried in graves round Mont St. Jean, to a vault in the new cemetery, and to erect over it this monument. The Brussels municipality has offered as a free gift an admirable site in the new cemetery for the proposed work, the cost of which will be defrayed by subscriptions from Englishmen.

Suggestions Concerning the Schools.

It requires no little hardihood for a military man to give expression to ideas so foreign to our military tradition as those contained in the below quoted article from the *Warder*, published at Lindsay, Ont. But the editor is an enthusiastic militia officer, and having the courage of his convictions has offered some reasonable suggestions in the direction of removing generally recognized weaknesses in our military school system. He says:—

“As the *Warder* during past years has frequently shown, the schools of instruction, while possessing many advantages and doing much good, could, without sacrificing any of those advantages or dispensing with an officer or a man of the permanent corps, be rendered infinitely more serviceable to the country.

“The great faults of the schools are, (1) too few are trained for officers, and (2) instruction is not according to knowledge of student, but according to his rank. We again respectfully suggest the following improvements. The present strong features, not conflicting with any of these, should of course be retained.

(1) Candidates should be admitted at least monthly and in UNLIMITED numbers.

(2) Each candidate, whether colonel or private, studying for the same grade of certificate, should wear SIMILAR UNIFORM during drill hours, and be subject to the same discipline. In short each should attend as a CADET, and not as a colonel, a captain, a sergeant, or a private.

(3) Each cadet should be at liberty to lodge without the barracks. The present system, which treats the student according to his rank in the militia list or on the service roll, instead of according to his knowledge or proficiency, is in utter want of harmony with sound educational or military principles. In a democratic country like Canada it is quite out of place. Imperial Germany or republican France allows no such snobbery.