

appoint this officer, as he is an efficient soldier, who has seen service in the Northwest, a popular sport, and a much respected citizen. We wish him every success.

We learn at the last moment that there is still a chance, though very remote, of the autumn camps being held after all.

JOHN JAVELIN.

### MILITARY MATTERS QUIET.



ONTREAL, July 29.—There is not much going on around the armories just now. The drill hall is now deserted, with the exception of a few enthusiasts of the different regiments. It seems a pity that such a building cannot be put to some use for the benefit of the corps. Why cannot some of the officers get started a class for physical instruction or such like? If this were once started it would mean that the men would have some interest to go around the drill shed of a night instead of as at present, when the drill season is over, the majority hang their accoutrements in the cupboard and never look near the place again until the spring.

This, as has been pointed out by THE GAZETTE before, is one of the main causes why there is so little interest taken in military matters by the young men of Montreal. Unless there is some popular attraction even the feather bonnet with red heckle will not draw them out. The present would be a good time for some go-ahead company officer to get up a squad for bayonet and physical exercise. It only requires someone to set the ball rolling. There is as yet no word of the gymnasium that was to be erected at the end of the hall for the use of the volunteers. I suppose this project has gone over to the great majority, as many another good thing for the good of the men has gone before.

We hear at the beginning of every season officers complain about the scarcity of men for their companies. Time-expired men will not re-engage, and recruits are difficult to get. If these gentlemen would just take a thought for a moment and lay before themselves anything that they had done to make their company popular, they would no doubt be surprised at the blank that would appear before them. Certainly not one single officer can be expected to inaugurate such things alone, but he has an opportunity of talking and bringing round his brother officers to such an idea.

It is to be hoped that before the nights begin to close in there will be some inducement for the men who would seek healthy exercise at the close of a day cooped up in an office. There is plenty of good material, and it only requires to be moulded a little, when Montreal would be able to hold her own, both as regards physique and endurance, with any of the crack western regiments.

A good deal has been said with regard to the bad ammunition now in use at the ranges. Several experienced officers, who not only take an interest in shooting from an officer's position, but can handle the rifle and judge the windage with the next one, went to the Cote Ste Luc ranges last week, and among them 200 rounds were fired. They could not find anything seriously the matter with the supply they had, bar one or two bullets that were slack in the case. No doubt there may have been some cause for complaint, but where on earth is to be found the frequenter of the ranges that ever was to blame for a bad score? It must be that bad ammunition, or his rifle has too much "pull," etc. The rifle shot gets to be a bit of a crank on ammunition, and so sure is he of getting on the bull at 3 o'clock that when he does drop low he frets and takes an

extra look at the next charge and at the same time is sure that something must have been the matter with the last cartridge. Very soon the bad ammunition spreads to the other ranges and every inner after that is caused by bad cartridges. He never thinks that he might be a little off color, and especially if he has the record of putting on good scores, that "off color" very often is the means of raising a rumpus on the whole range.

The long-looked-for white jackets of the Royal Scots have arrived. Some 300 arrived the other day and the whole regiment will thus be able to don them at once. The public will soon have an opportunity of seeing them, for a parade will be called for in a short time.

The Highland Cadets had a splendid turn-out last week. Their drilling was good, and much credit is due the instructor for the splendid showing they are now making. The prizes won for shooting were presented.

The band of the 6th Fusiliers will hold their annual picnic to Isle Gros Bois on August 29th.

Montreal will shortly have a garrison polo club. Lieut.-Col. Strathy, Royal Scots, is organizing such a club to be composed of officers belonging to the active militia. It is expected that ponies broken to polo will be landed in Montreal at a cost of about \$40 each. Outside the cost of the pony the other expenses will be slight—only sticks and balls, with \$3 per month to keep the ground in condition. The colonel has already bought a pony, and it is expected that a shipment of 8 or 10 will arrive shortly.

Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D.A.G., received a letter from Col. Aylmer asking him to find out whether the officers in command of the different corps in his district preferred to go into camp in the fall or spring. Four of the officers commanding preferred going into camp this fall, while two expressed the preference for a spring camp. No definite decision has yet been arrived at. The 11th, 50th, 51st and 85th Battalions have not been in camp since 1894, while the 64th, 76th, 83rd and 86th were out in 1895. It is about time some of the corps had another touch of drill.

The winners of the four aggregates at the Victoria Rifles meeting the other day are: D. C. R. A. silver medal, won by Pte. K. Matthews, with 229 points; D. C. R. A. bronze medal, Lieut. C. H. McAdam, 229; 600 yards aggregate, P. Q. R. A. badge, Pte. K. Matthews, 78 points; Nursery aggregate, Pte. Veary, 126 points.

Major-General Ivor Herbert has written Deputy Surgeon-General Campbell, R.R.C.I., stating that Lord Methuen, commanding the Home district in England, proposed next year to do some fishing in Canada, on the completion of his command, which expires in April next. He asks Dr. Campbell to make some arrangement for his lordship's visit.

Last Saturday was a busy day at the Cote St. Luc ranges. The 2nd Regiment Garrison Artillery and the P. W. R. both put in their Government practice. Some men from the 6th Fusiliers also fired. The day was all that could be desired for shooting, and some very good scores were put on. There were close on 300 men on the ranges. In the M. R. A. long distance match the shooting was very interesting. The distance was 800 yards, 5 shots. J. Ward was first with 21 points, J. Broadhurst second and K. Matthews third, with 20 points each. Altogether the shooting was remarkably good, and Capt. Collins made an excellent executive range officer. On the 1st August the last monthly meeting of the M.R.A. will be held in conjunction with the Prince of Wales' Rifle Association's annual match.

In September Montreal is to be visited by the Putnam Phalanx, of Hartford, Conn., with their corps and bands. This same corps visited Montreal twenty-five years ago, and were then much admired for their drill and dress. No doubt, as they are reckoned to