

should not the stern arm of the militia regulations be brought down on all the personal offenders alluded to by Col. Denison, and on the gentlemen who, Col. D'Orsonnens complains (last line, page 175), have been kept on the militia list notwithstanding his adverse report? If the militia are to be brought up to a higher standard it must be by rewarding merit and punishing incompetency, and anything we can do to promote such a state of affairs, by drawing attention to such defects as are remediable, we hope to accomplish.

At the last moment we have been obliged to leave out communications from "Miles" and "Short Course" in consequence of the length of the D. R. A. report. The week's general orders were not issued when we went to press.

PERSONALS.

The 6th Fusiliers are to be congratulated in having secured as their new commanding officer so worthy a successor to their late popular Colonel, Robert Gardner. They have, in the person of Lt.-Col. F. Massey, one over them who has proverbially been a popular, efficient and painstaking officer, ever alive to promote the best interests of his regiment in its various undertakings. Lt.-Col. Massey has long been identified with the volunteers of Montreal, and has served his Queen and country in the Militia force in every capacity, from the ranks to the position he has at length attained at the head of his fine battalion. In 1865 Mr. Massey, then in his 17th year, joined the ranks of the Victoria Rifles and, with the exception of a short interval, has been in Canada's active militia ever since. During the Fenian excitement in 1866, Mr. Massey was thrice with the Victorias on active service, and again with them as a sergeant in No. 4 Company, in 1870, at Eccles Hill. Retiring from the Victorias he joined, in 1877, his present regiment, and has, between that time and February, 1886, passed through every commissioned grade in the regiment, occupying the responsible post of adjutant for three periods; was present with his regiment on its visit to St. Albans in 1878, during the Orange embroglio the same year, and in 1881 participated in the pleasant visit to Quebec. In August, 1878, he was appointed to No. 1 Company, being gazetted captain, and remained in that capacity identified with the company for six years. It was during this period that No. 1 Company of the 6th gained golden opinions throughout the district for its general state of efficiency, both in drill and target practice, winning frequent competitions in each against all comers. Capt. Massey received his majority in April, 1883, and February 1886 has now seen him gazetted to the command of his battalion as its Lieut.-Col. We cannot but feel that under so popular and efficient a commander the 6th Fusiliers is bound to retain its very enviable and well deserved reputation as one of the crack corps of the Dominion, and Col. Gardner will no doubt feel that in making way for his junior brother-in-arms he is leaving his fine command in safe and deserving hands.

IN THE HOUSE.

On the 3rd March, Sir Adolphe Caron, in answer to Sir R. Cartwright, stated that the "expenditure by the Militia Department from 1st July, 1885, to 1st March, 1886, on account of the recent rebellion in the North-west, or for claims arising therefrom, has been \$2,286,960."

Hon. Mr. McLelan, in reply to a further question of Sir R. Cartwright on the same subject said: "The statement in the Finance Department of the amount paid from 1st July, 1885, to 1st March, 1886, on account of the recent rebellion in the North-west, or of claims arising therefrom, is as follows: Miscellaneous justice, including North-west Territories, \$35,578.83; expenses and losses arising out of troubles, including expenditure by the Department of Militia for transport of troops, etc., \$2,128,310.10; sundry claims for losses paid, \$55,590; expenses of North-west rebellion losses commission, \$2,017.65; or a total of \$2,231,695.49."

Sir Adolphe Caron promised in a few days to lay on the table of the House a preliminary report of the claims commission in connection with the recent rebellion.

On Monday the 15th, the Minister of Militia, in reply to Mr. Casey's questions concerning Major-Gen. Laurie and Major-Gen. Strange, and their appointments to the North-west Field Force last spring, spoke as follows: "Major-General Laurie when he went to

the North-west was retired from active command in the militia. The date of his retirement was 30th June, 1882. He was sent out by the Minister with instructions to report himself to the Major-General in command, who gave him a command. He was not gazetted as an officer of the Active Militia during the campaign. He served as commander at the base of operations at Swift Current and Moose Jaw. His rate of pay was \$8.76 per diem.

Major-General Strange was not on the Active Militia list on 25th March, 1885. He was appointed to the temporary rank of Colonel in the militia during the period the militia was called out for active service in the North-west, by an Order-in-Council of 27th April, 1885. He was gazetted on 15th May, 1885, by General Orders. He held the command of the Alberta Field Force. He was appointed by Order-in-Council as above stated. His rate of pay was \$12.16 per diem.

THE DOMINION RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The eighteenth annual business meeting was held in the Railway Committee room of the House of Commons on the 17th, with Lieut.-Col. the Hon. George Kirkpatrick, Speaker of the House and President of the association, in the chair. There was a larger meeting of members than usual, including His Excellency the Governor-General, escorted by his Secretary, Capt. Sreatfield and Capt. Byng, A.D.C., Sir Frederick Middleton and Capt. Wise, A.D.C., Hon. Senators Bottsford and W. J. Macdonald, Messrs. Homer, Hall, E. Crowe Baker, Taylor, Stairs, Ward and Casey, M.P's., Lieut.-Cols. Irwin, I. of A., A. H. Macdonald, 1st Brigade F.A.; D. A. Macdonald, Militia Department; White, 43rd; Mattice, B.M.; Bacon, Secretary; Macpherson, Treasurer; Hon. C. E. Panet, Deputy Minister; O'Brien, M.P., 35th; Vance Graveley, 40th; Oswald, M.G.A.; Jackson, D.A.G.; Lamontagne, D.A.G.; Ouimet, M.P., 65th; Lewis, B.M.; McKenzie, G.F.B.; Tyrwhitt, M.P., 36th; Scoble, retd.; McEachern, C.M.G.; Brosseau, 85th; Massey, 6th; Majors Mason, 13th; Snartt, retd.; Anderson, 43rd; Boulton, Scouts; Tilton, Guards; Dawson, R.G.; Bond, P.W.R.; Vince, Brighton Engineers, and Blaiklock, R.S.; Captains Perley, Eng. Staff; Toller, Guards; Gourdeau, P.L.D.G.; Prévost, 65th; Harston, R.G.; Hood, R.S.; Sherwood, 43rd; Halliwell, 15th, and Messrs. Macnachten, C.G.A., Gray and Thompson, Guards; Whitely, 53rd; Taylor, Guards, and J. Stewart, Saskatchewan District, R.A., Prince Albert.

The annual report was presented and adopted, after which Col. O'Brien moved a vote of thanks to the Governor-General for his liberal donations to the association, seconded by Major Boulton and enthusiastically carried, to which His Excellency made the following reply:—

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—It is very satisfactory to me to find myself present for the third time at the annual meeting of The Dominion Rifle Association, and to receive so cordial an acknowledgement of the slight assistance which I have been able to afford to it. My predecessors and I have always been glad to give substantial proof of the interest which we take in the work of the association, because we believed it to be one of real value to the Dominion, and absolutely essential to the efficiency of our national army. I am glad to observe from the papers which I have had an opportunity of examining that the year through which we have just passed have been, as far as the association is concerned, one of satisfactory progress in many respects. Your meeting last summer was a very successful one, and I am pleased to think that upon that occasion nothing prevented me from being present. The meeting showed an advance upon any of those which preceded it in respect of the number and value of the prizes which we were able to distribute. Cash prizes to the value of over \$6,000, and such a goodly array of cups and other trophies as were exhibited on the table when I had the honor of distributing them, is a result of which we need not be ashamed.

The record would perhaps be even more satisfactory than it is if the increase in the number of competitors had been proportionate to the increase in the amount of the prizes distributed. I am aware that last year many of those who would, under ordinary circumstances, have taken part in these competitions, were engaged in sterner duties, cheerfully performed in the service of their country. If, however, we take the last seven years, it appears that while the amount of money prizes distributed has grown, roughly speaking, from \$4,000 to \$6,000 the number of competitors, which stood at 250 in the year 1879, has since that time never much exceeded 300, and has sometimes fallen short of that number. I think these figures show that the council is well advised in endeavoring to frame the rules of its competitions with the object of raising the standard of rifle shooting generally throughout the force, and attracting men who have not yet taken their place upon the roll of prize winners, rather than with that of rewarding the performance of a small number of crack shots.

There is another column in the returns which I have had before me which is not altogether satisfactory. I mean that giving the number of annual subscribers to the association. I see that in the first year of the association's existence, twenty-two years ago, we had 130 annual subscribers. The number has fluctuated since that time, sometimes falling as low as fifty, or even lower. It now stands at 101, a very insignificant total. I cannot help thinking that the public of Canada, having regard to the generous support which the association has received at the hands of the Government, has a little lost sight of the fact that the organization was never intended to depend upon the public treasury for its support, and that it is deserving of a large measure of support and recognition from private sources.

Another circumstance points in the same direction, I mean the very slight extent of the support which the association receives from the manufacturing interests