

militia force there is none that would give a better return to the country for the amount spent.

We would advocate, and advocate very strongly, a much more liberal issue of ammunition to the force for target practice than at present allowed. A step in the right direction was made last year, but it was a very feeble juvenile step, and may be supplemented by a much more healthy stride without any danger to the equilibrium of the Departmental finances.

From the annual report of the Deputy Minister, made last year, we find that the Department spent \$198,533.31 on ammunition, clothing and military stores. From the report of the Auditor General we find that of this sum over \$60,000 was expended on the cartridge factory at Quebec. The report of the Department also shows that over \$60,000 was expended on public armouries and the care of arms.

A total sum of \$1,296,000 was spent by the Militia Department, of which large expenditure the very munificent amount of \$9,600 was devoted to ammunition to train the whole force, permanent and volunteer.

Surely this amount might be very largely supplemented without dangerously encroaching upon the finances.

It is pretty generally admitted, we believe, that it is too much to expect to be able to obtain a thoroughly drilled, well disciplined force, out of the Canadian militia as long as the Government are unable to give them more opportunities for drill and exercise than at present exist.

There is no reason in the world, however, why we should not have a force of 50,000 men, each one of whom might be depended upon to make good shooting at an enemy for any distance up to 600 yards, and this without increasing the expenditure of the Department \$25,000 annually.

A liberal increase in the annual grant of ammunition for target practice, and the appointment of an active intelligent officer to superintend, inspect and improve the use of it, is all that is called for from the Department.

STRANGE ACTION OF A TORONTO MILITIA OFFICER.

Lieut. E. A. Macdonald, an officer of the 12th Battalion, is reported as having spoken at a public meeting held in Toronto on the 28th ult., to discuss Canadian independence, in the following terms: "We have arrived at that state of misgovernment which no change can make worse. Everyone acknowledges that something must be done. Some want imperial federation, others commercial union, and others annexation. Some people say this country is too moral to unite with the Yankees. I do not think that it is, I look

at Quebec and find that every politician is a thief. Nature and Providence intended that the United States and Canada should be under one government, and it is my opinion that it is their ultimate destiny to be united and form one powerful, peaceful and industrious nation." And on being called upon by his commanding officer on behalf of the officer commanding Military District No. 2 for an explanation of his conduct at the meeting, "such conduct," it being said, "being inconsistent with the appointment which you now hold as an officer of the Canadian Militia," replied: "I am not aware that my holding or publicly expressing political opinions or views different from those of my superiors in command of the militia, is an offence, either within the meaning of the Queen's Regulations or the Canada Militia Act. If it is, and I had known it, I would never have become a militiaman. I do not believe it is, however, and until I am otherwise advised, I decline to be questioned by anyone."

It appears to us that whether Mr. Macdonald has or has not the right to express such opinions in public, he has certainly made a serious mistake in accepting a commission in the militia while entertaining such views, and we would strongly recommend him to avail himself of the first opportunity offered to resign from a position which might possibly call for his services to oppose the ultimate destiny which he fancies he sees for this country.

ANNUAL MEETING OF "F" CO., Q. O. R.

The annual meeting of the above Company was held at the Hub on Saturday evening, 20th inst. Owing to Capt. McGee still being on the sick list, Lieut. H. F. Wyatt performed the duties of chairman to the satisfaction of all. The meeting was very enthusiastic, some 40 members being present, and the whole proceedings bespoke a healthy tone. The company is the strongest in the regiment, and held its position throughout nearly the whole of last fall. Reports were received from the Treasurer, Clothing, Recruit and Rifle Committees, all being highly satisfactory. Ex-Col. Serjts. George and Ham took this opportunity of thanking the members of "F." Co. for their kind remembrance on the occasion of their severing their connection with the company last fall. This company had a complete uniform purchased for each member last spring, each one paying proportion of the cost, the balance being borne by the company fund. This season it has been arranged that each recruit is fitted out with a brand new uniform, a slight proportion of the cost being borne by him on joining the company. This ensures good care of a uniform, and also a properly fitting uniform for every man. It has been decided to hold a "hard-times" oyster supper at an early date. By way of explanation I might add that the con-

ditions governing this are: no collars, cuffs or ties, one or two patches on trousers, and the toughest looking specimen gets a prize.

Following are the officers for the ensuing year: Secretary—Col. Sergt. Agnew; Treasurer—Private R. W. Agnew; Rifle Committee—Lieut. Wyatt, Sergt. Bryant, Corporal Campbell, Privates Davison, Rice and Cameron; Recruit Committee—Lieut. Matheson, Sergt. Saunders, Corporals Forster, Crate, Privates Niblock, Davidson, LeMair.

A HISTORICAL LECTURE.

A very successful and interesting lecture on "The Defence of York" was given by Mr. Barlow Cumberland to the sergeants mess of the Royal Grenadiers.

Mr. Cumberland has made a very extensive study of the subject, and of Canadian history in general, so that his remarks were listened to with interest by the large and appreciative audience that had gathered to hear him. After the lecture was over a hearty vote of thanks was tendered to the lecturer, and a hearty three cheers and a tiger added emphasis to it. Among others present were noticed Lieut.-Col. Dawson, Major Mason, Lieut.-Col. Brophy, 91st Battalion, Capt. Heward and Lieut. Chadwick. During the evening Lieut.-Col. Dawson, on behalf of the officers of the regiment, presented Sergt. Major Cox with a sword to replace the one stolen from him last fall. Mr. Cumberland has promised at a future date to give a description of the burning of Washinton by the British.

THE NERVOUS VOLUNTEER.

["The defendant created some amusement by stating that the instructor had fired his class for him in former years on account of his being so nervous. As illustrating his condition when handling firearms it was stated that at the last review at Brighton he was in such a nervous state that the blank cartridges had to be taken away from him."—The Times, January 13.]

O pity my sorrowful lot!

I'm a sensitive Volunteer,

Who's dying to fire a shot

In defence of his country dear,

But I can't, for the sound of a gun drives me simply distraught with fear.

I'm perfect in all my drill:

I've a beautiful uniform,

(The Government pays the bill),

And, except when the weather's too warm,

My cunningly waxed moustache takes many a heart by storm.

I'm sure I've plenty of nerve—

Or nerves, would be nearer the mark—

And I rarely shy or swerve

When I hear a puppy dog bark;

And, although I burn a night light, I'm not afraid of the dark.

Then, O Mr. Hodson Pratt,

Look sharp and abolish war,

For I'm knocked as flat as my hat

At the sight of a drop of gore:

I'm game to fight a *la Blak and White*, but I bar the cannon's roar.

P.S.—

I've purchased a pop-gun, since

My conduct gave rise to jeers;

And although it makes me wince,

I've so far conquered my fears

That I hope to take part in the Brighton Review in about a dozen years.—C/c.