

carded by the Imperial troops after the Crimean war. Still, some of these old boxes were served out to the militia called out at the time of Riel's little shindy, but it was realized that it would subject them to too severe a test to have them worn on the march, and they had to be carried in wag-gons. Then the other Crimean relics, the clumsy old cartridge boxes and absurd little bags are equally antiquated and rotten. Thanks to rotten leather and ripped seams every battlefield in the Northwest was thickly sewn with unused cartridges, and one could almost follow a force marching across the prairie by the cartridges dropped on the trail from broken cartridge boxes. The provision of a complete new outfit of accoutrements for the militia is an immediate and very pressing necessity.

The question of federating the armed forces of the Empire is becoming a live question in the British service papers. The *Broad Arrow* of a recent date said:—

"The military federation of the forces of the Empire is an important matter which is revived by Colonel E. R. Drury, of the Queensland Defence Force, in a letter to the *Times*. The subject has often been discussed, but as yet little or nothing has been done to give it real effect. It is a big question, but there should be no difficulty in drawing closer the bonds of race and sentiment which happily still keep the Colonies close to the heart of the mother country. Some years ago an article appeared in the *Army and Navy Magazine*, which went so far as to advocate the extension of the Territorial System to the Colonies, and the writer would have liked to see the Leinster Regiment resume entirely and solely its original title of "The Royal Canadians," with headquarters in Canada, and recruits raised there for Imperial service. Similarly, regiments could be formed in our other Colonial possessions; and with a South African Regiment, or a New Zealand Regiment, or Queensland, New South Wales or Victorian Regiments, we could indeed show an Imperial Regular Army, backed up by a host of auxiliaries, which would place the British Empire in a position of strength beyond all doubt.

"Whether we shall ever see these advanced views carried into effect or not, there appears to be no reason why something, as Col. Drury pleads, should not be done to weld all our forces into one Imperial Army, and similarly our naval forces into an Imperial Navy. It is true that after all it must of necessity be largely a matter of sentiment, but nations are governed by sentiment, and it is this feeling of unity, bound by the ties of blood and brotherhood, which should be encouraged in our empire as tending to ensure our future Imperial welfare. Col. Drury is hopeful that the problem is capable of easy solution, and says so in words which display a right loyal spirit:—

"Nothing need be changed; precedence, relative rank, and command would continue unaltered. Each self-governing colony would exercise the same control over its forces as at present. But a bond of union, a brotherhood of arms, would be created that might prove of inestimable value in the hour of danger if the mother country were to call upon her sons throughout the world to uphold her cause and preserve the integrity of her widely-scattered dominions."

News of the Service.

NOTE.—Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate, forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades. Address,
EDITOR, CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE
P.O. Box, 387, Montreal, Que.

Toronto.

The *Evening Telegram* says:—No one seems to know the principle on which the first and second in command of the Canadian Bisley (once Wimbledon) team of riflemen are appointed. The nomination rests with the president of the Dominion Rifle Association, who has succeeded in generally appointing in command of the team those who, from a rifle-shooting point of view, have no claim to the position. There have been one or two notable exceptions, such as Colonels Otter and Gibson, who were as successful as they were worthy. In the majority of cases they have been political figureheads. The second position, and the most important one from a shooting standpoint, has for several years fallen on a capable man, but strange to say, he has always been of the correct shade of politics. Officers who have devoted much time and money to the furtherance of rifle shooting, but who vote "agin' the Government," complain that they have no show for the coveted position. They say, and surely with much force, that as the money for the expenses of the team is voted from the public coffers, there should be no distinction made as regards politics. It seems strange to anyone that politics should enter for a moment into military matters of any kind. They do, however.

At a recent meeting of one of the city corps the question of cheaper street railway transport for volunteers in uniform was discussed. One of the chief causes of slim parades was stated to be the distance travelled and time lost by the men in coming to and going from drill. This was stated to be particularly the case with those whose business is not over till six o'clock, and who live a long way from their work.

It was argued that as the police ride free, and that as the street railways are as likely to need the assistance of the troops in the case of trouble as that of the police, some special rate of travel should be granted them.

The idea appears very feasible. A cheap ticket might be issued to be used only by volunteers in uniform, or, as was mentioned at the meeting referred to, the company might assess the different corps according to their strength, and thus save the conductors the trouble of collecting tickets as well as the cost of the same. The uniform would be the ticket.

The usual neat appearance of our volunteers would not detract from the appearance of the cars, and anything that will produce a good feeling between the Street Railway Company and the volunteers who are brought into close contact with them in their marches through the streets, must have a salutary effect on both. Besides, our militiamen who give up their time for nothing, are deserving of any compliment that may be paid them.

As chairman of the recent meeting of the Canadian Military Institute, at which Col. Lindsay read his paper on "Rural Battalions," Col. Mason, of the Royal Grenadiers, stated that if the country wished to improve the militia system, more attention should be paid to the schools. The public schools of Toronto are the recruiting grounds for its regiments. Sixty per cent. of the Queen's Own learned the "goose step," the "salute" and the "present" at the public and high schools of the city, and this accounts for the efficiency of that regiment. Not only did the boys receive their rudiments of drill at these schools, but the military spirit instilled into their young minds never left them, and they became soldiers in mind as well as in body. The same principle would apply to every school section in the province. The government might provide on a small scale, arms, accoutrements and instruction in drill to every school in the Dominion, by dividing a little of the money that is now being wasted on the majority of the rural battalions. If to this were added a small amount of target practice—a source of great delight to boys—many thousands of dollars that are wasted in ammunition at the various camps of instruction would be saved. The commanding officer of the Royal Grenadiers knows what he is talking about.

The "march out" through the principal streets of the city the second week in March of the regular Infantry, stationed at Stanley barracks, reminded the citizens of the good old days of the 17th, 30th or 47th Regiments of the line. It was no uncommon occurrence to meet a battalion of men out for their morning exercise along the roads leading to and from the city. The chief feature, however, was the splendid band, and in this respect the recent parade was greatly lacking. The music was supplied by the bugle band, and was very fair.

The "march" was carried out under the new regulations, and many were surprised at the strange appearance of the men as they moved in single rank and column of sections. The arms and accoutrements appeared to be in the best of order, showing in this respect a good example to our own red coats. Frequent outings of this kind are heartily welcomed by the citizens, who are inclined to think that Col. Otter and