

MEDALS AND GREAT COATS.

ST. JOHN, N.B., April 18.—There is not much military news to be given from this city at this time of year; no drill has taken place as yet and none talked of. As before explained, we cannot drill in winter on account of the position and state of the drill shed, consequently just when the time comes to enjoy a summer evening's outing our men are expected to spend their time at the drill shed, or on a route march. It is a wonder our city corps obtain as many men as they do. In this respect we rather envy our brethren of Ontario and Quebec, who can drill in the winter and have their inspection early in the summer. Another advantage those corps have is in the opportunity for "outings" which they enjoy, having so many cities near them, while here we have few chances of taking our men on a trip. Truly the militia of the Maritime Provinces labor under many difficulties.

Lieut.-Col. Gordon, of No. 4 Company Royal Canadian Infantry, left here yesterday by the Lake Ontario en route for Aldershot, where he will take a course of three months. There is no more popular officer in Canada, and the force here are glad of his selection for this duty. We had hoped that he might have got his promotion to the command if Col. Maunsell had been appointed Adjutant-General—as many here think he should have been, at least on account of his seniority—but it seems ordered otherwise, much to our regret. A complimentary dinner was given to Col. Gordon by the officers and honorary members of No. 4 Company Mess, at which Lieutenant-Governor Fraser and other distinguished people were present. The R.R.C.I. band played him off at the station.

A capital band concert was given at the Opera House last week by the band of the 62nd Fusiliers, which was one of the best ever given in the city. The house was crowded, thus showing the popularity of the band, which now numbers 26 men, under the leadership of Mr. F. H. Jones, bandmaster. It is proposed to give monthly concerts during the year.

The Canadian Rifle League will probably have an extra team enter this year, as the St. John County Association have agreed to enter, besides the usual teams from the Artillery, Fusiliers and the Rifle Co. Now here is another disadvantage our force here labors under: The range is two or three miles away, and very inaccessible, yet the Intercolonial Railway—Government—passes within a stone's throw of the range, and we cannot get either free or reduced passage over the line. Trains can easily stop at a siding, and, if free transportation were given, it would help rifle shooting very much here. This, I am told, is done in Halifax, but here we cannot get a member to lift up his voice to obtain this boon.

It is now about four years since we first

heard that the Canadian Militia were to get the Long Service Medal, and we are about as near it as ever, but are told that on account of a technicality in the Militia Act, we are not entitled to it. Has the application ever been made to the Imperial Government? If so, what was their reply? And under what conditions will they grant Canadians the medal? Of course, we are not volunteers, in the strict sense of the word, but no one believes that the War Office would refuse to give us the decoration if it were asked for. We should push for this and not rest till we get it, or some medal for long service. If General Gascoigne wishes to become popular with the militia let him start the correspondence, and there is not the slightest doubt he can obtain the consent from the British Government for the issue.

As new tenders are to be called for great-coats, it is hoped that they will be made with detachable capes, so that in wet weather the men can use the latter instead of having to put on a heavy coat and cape. In most city corps many of the men purchase capes from Government stores and use them, thus showing their preference for them. The long cape will also afford better protection and more warmth in cold weather. Another suggestion: Let the coats be furnished with brass buttons, instead of the unsightly and unsoldierly black bone ones now in use. They would not cost much more, and certainly would look much better. Still another suggestion: Let the coats for the infantry be made a little brighter and better in appearance, with a blue collar, or something to distinguish the men of the force from cartmen, who wear old great coats purchased from junk stores, where a dishonest soldier makes away with his coat. It is thus very hard to prove Government property. The artillery wear red collars. Why should not the infantry have the same distinction? I hope this will catch the eye of the Quartermaster-General and that the old fogies in the clothing department will wake up from their sleep and adopt common-sense views in this connection.

We will probably get the long-expected four days' drill pay if the Government ever reach the Supplementary Estimates, but what about drill and camps for this year? It is time something was known about these matters.

Are you adopting my last suggestion and sending a copy of your paper to the heads of departments and members of Government with the "kicks" and "grievances" marked?

THOMAS ATKINS.

UNCLE SAM'S ARMY NO GOOD.

KINGSTON, April 16. — Lieut.-Col. Cotton, D.A.G., left on Wednesday on his journey to England, there to remain six months for instructional pur-

poses. Capt. Ogilvie, "A" Battery, and Staff-Sergt. Long, "A" Battery, started yesterday for England on a like mission.

Lieut.-Col. Vidal is at present acting D.A.G. of this (No. 3) military district. He arrived here on Monday last, and took over from Lieut.-Col. Cotton, D.A.G., the command of the district, which he will retain until Lieut.-Col. Cotton's return.

On Monday evening last the staff-sergeants and sergeants of "A" Battery, with about fifty civilian friends, entertained Staff-Sergeant Long of "A" Battery at a smoking concert in the reading room of the sergeants' mess at the Tete du Pont Barracks previous to his sailing for England. Sergt.-Major Stroud presided and warmly eulogized Staff-Sergt. Long, who, he said, was, next to himself, the senior non-commissioned officer in the corps, and would, when he (Sergt.-Major Stroud) retires, as he will do shortly, succeed to his rank. Staff-Sergt. Long, he said, was a good soldier and a popular and efficient non-commissioned officer who, during his stay in England, would learn a great deal regarding the breech-loading field gun drill, but who already knew all there is to learn about muzzle-loaders. Staff-Sergt. Long was spoken of most highly by others of his fellow non-coms, by the representatives of the local press and by other civilians present. He replied in fitting strain, and the evening was then given up most successfully to social enjoyment.

The officers of the 14th Batt. P.W.O.R., held their regular monthly meeting on Monday evening last, and decided to begin company drill this week.

The statement, made originally by an officer of the battalion, that Sergt.-Major Morgans, R.M.C., would retire from the 14th Batt., this year, and that his place would be taken by Color.-Sergt. Cannon, is contradicted, on the authority, and at the request, of another officer of the corps. Sergt.-Major Morgans is still the sergeant-major of the 14th., and there is no probability of his retiring. He will this season, as usual, act as instructor to the battalion. Color.-Sergt. Cannon becomes orderly-room clerk.

The Queen's Birthday Celebration Committee of this city, at its meeting on Friday night last, appointed Lieut.-Col. Cotton, D.A.G.; Lieut.-Col. Duff, 4th Hussars; Major Drury, "A" Battery, R.C.A.; Lieut.-Col. Hunter, 47th Batt.; Major Skinner, 14th Batt., and Major Drennan, Kingston Field Battery, R.C.A., a committee to invite an outside regiment to take part in the demonstration here on May 25th., and appropriated a sum of money for the entertainment of the visiting officers and men. A regiment has been invited, but which corps was selected as the recipient of the invitation will not be made known until an answer has been received.

Patrick Ahern, a deserter from the 8th King's Regiment, stationed last year at Hali-