

dollar misspent means that much taken out of the fund voted to make the force generally more efficient. Some may not care to take the responsibility of bringing such matters to the attention of the authorities. If they will write *THE MILITARY GAZETTE* privately the matter will be enquired into and brought to the attention of the Minister. If action is not then taken *THE GAZETTE* will expose.

We believe the present Minister is a man of good intentions, but he has been imposed upon already by ward politicians with personal interests to serve. He will continue to be unless we give him sufficient back-bone to resist.

METHODS OF INSPECTION.

THE annual inspections which have just been concluded have produced the annual crop of protests against what is described as the tendency of inspecting officers to frame their tests in such a way as to trip the officers examined rather than to ascertain the exact amount of knowledge and competence possessed by them. Chapter and verse are not infrequently given by the aggrieved ones, and one hears of movements required which are really not practicable, the victims' proper course being to point out their impracticability, of familiar movements being called for in unfamiliar terms, of ceremonial drill movements being exacted from officers who have spent all their time—none of the longest—upon the more practical parts of the work, and of numerous other sins on the part of the inspecting officers. Motives, it is to be regretted, are occasionally imputed, and the questions which cause the company to be tangled up are set down to a deliberate desire and intention to cause confusion.

The topic is by no means new, nor is it by any means confined to the militia of Canada. In all ages, and in every branch of learning, the besetting sin of the examiner is the desire to "stick" the examined, instead of to test him. It appears in every branch of the educational system, from public school to university, and it flourishes with especial vigor in viva voce examinations. If any militia officer has doubts upon the subject, and wishes to convince himself, let him secure a few minutes of the society of a party of medical students when the council examinations are on. He will gain a considerable insight into the possibilities of iniquity on the part of examiners, together with side-lights upon the capabilities of the English language. When it is remembered that all examiners are exposed to this temptation, it is less to be wondered at if the inspecting officer occasionally lapses from the path of examinational rectitude. The inspecting officer, too, has his side of the case. A test so arranged as to bring out that only which is already known would be no test, and by ascertaining the limitations of an officer's knowledge he also obtains an idea of its extent. He might also contend that the putting of questions in a novel form is an encouragement to the cultivation of a clear head and ready mind, not to mention a more thorough acquaintance with the fundamental principles of drill. He might even be imagined as pleading that it is not always a bad thing to shake men's complacency and to put them on their mettle.

But it is nevertheless a vicious principle that the proper way in which to examine a man is to puzzle him. It is very difficult to attain the golden mean between a perfunctory and an unfairly difficult test, to make the inspection searching and at the same time absolutely fair, but it is an end worthy of effort. An ideal inspection should leave a good, hardworking militia regiment satisfied that there has been progress made through the year, and at the same time convinced that there is room for further improvement. And if the militia officer can never attain absolute perfection in his department of work, so, too, the inspecting officer may well devote much time and thought to his own improvement in a difficult and often thankless task.

QUALIFICATIONS OF A COMMANDANT.

"Snap Cap" writes a very sensible letter to *The Toronto Mail* on the qualifications necessary for the commandant or adjutant of the Bisley Team. We cannot agree with him that it is necessary for an officer to hold the rank of lieutenant-colonel. This would shut out such men as Major Mason, or Major Delamere, who have done so much for rifle shooting. It would shut out non-combatant officers who sometimes join the force because of the shooting. In theory they are not supposed to have anything to do with rifle practice, but actual experience shows that they have done a very great deal for the development of individual shots and teams. They are often better able to do this than are company officers, whose time is fully occupied with drills, etc. "Snap Cap" writes as follows:

"We have had political commandants, who, we hope, have disappeared for ever, and purely military commandants, and if the records of past teams be examined it will be found that those which were the most successful were commanded by some of the latter class.

"The qualifications for either the command or the adjutancy may be stated thus: (a) to hold—in the case of the former—the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and be in command of a battalion, and of the latter to be of any rank up to and including that of major, and on duty with a battalion; (b) to be rifle shots, and possessing a thorough knowledge of the work to be done on the range; (c) to have a knowledge of the shooting merits of each member of the team, and the ability to select the best men for teams for matches in England; (d) to be not only members of the Dominion Rifle Association, but to be attendants at its matches, and taking a part in its welfare and advancement; (e) to be a supporter of rifle shooting, not only in the battalion, but also in local and provincial associations; (f) to possess the ability to dispense that courtesy and hospitality at Bisley, which has been so marked a feature in connection with the presence of the Canadian team at the National Rifle Association.

"These qualifications were possessed in an eminent degree by the officers of this year's team, and their fitness should be the standard for future appointments. A place on the team is the highest prize offered by the D.R.A., and can only be obtained by members of the active militia, who, having become proficient rifle shots, win it on the range, and it follows that the officers should be selected from those on active service in the infantry branch only, with the exclusion of all officers connected with the infantry or other schools, as they are paid for their services and have their duties to attend to, whilst the militia officer gives his time and services for almost nothing, coupled with the privilege of paying varying amounts out of his own private means for the support of his corps, and from such the officers of future Bisley Teams should be selected."

THE GZOWSKI CUPS.

THE comparative efficiency returns for the city corps of No. 2 Military District, which we publish in this issue, show that the 13th Batt. has once more won the Gzowski Cup—this time by the narrow margin of .99 of one point over the Queen's Own. The 13th has also the company making the best showing, Capt. Labatt's company scoring 131.78 points. Major Henderson's company, of the Highlanders, comes next with 128.90 points. The companies of the Queen's Own strike a high average throughout. The competition has been exceedingly close, and, so far as the Toronto and Hamilton corps are concerned, the marks are appreciably higher.

In connection with the awarding of the Gzowski Cup for the rural corps passing the best inspection in the year, a curious complication has arisen, growing out of the postponement of the camps