

especially for the city corps, which are virtually at work all the year round. Even in the Old Country where volunteers (as distinct from militia), are unpaid, it was found necessary to, not only supply *paid adjutants*, but also to *renew* them every five years, so that the volunteers should be kept "au fait" at all the new exercises and drills and ways of doing things. It was also found that under the old system the regimental work was only half done, whereas under the new system the regiments have increased in smartness, discipline and work. In the old country militia, besides the paid adjutants, there is a full staff of paid n. c. o. and drill instructors, and if that is necessary there, how much more is it necessary here, where our militia constitute our sole defending force.

A beginning might be made by appointing as "paid adjutant" a fully qualified cadet from the Royal Military College to each regiment which does its drill at headquarters. A special six months' course in battalion drill, orderly room work and interior economy, etc., etc., might be allowed to those cadets who wish for such an appointment, after they have graduated at the college, and we should thus secure a body of smart and capable young officers whose youthful energy and "go" would soon make itself felt throughout the militia, at a comparatively small cost, for young men who were going to fill up their time, with, say land surveying, would be glad to get an adjutancy and say \$700 per annum attached to it, and the payment of this by the department would be a great relief to the pockets of many a hard working militia officer, and increase the efficiency of the militia. It would however be absolutely necessary that no appointment should be made except on the recommendation of the colonel of the regiment, in the same way as other officers are appointed.

Should this scheme prove successful it might be followed by attaching paid adjutants to the rural battalions, say one adjutant to two battalions which go to camp alternate years. I hope some militia M.P. will take this matter up. I shall take the liberty of bringing other matters to their notice as the session progresses.

THE ODD FILL.

### Practising River Crossing.

A recent issue of the *Revue du Cercle Militaire* gives a very interesting account of how in May last two troops of Cossacks swam the Dnieper at Kieff. It says:—"The troops, under the personal command and following the example of Colonel Unkhailoff, commanding the regiment, accompanied by officers of the regiment and its lieutenant-colonel, crossed the Dnieper at a point where the current runs over one and one-half miles per hour, near the bank, and over two miles per hour in the middle, and where the width is over seven hundred yards. The right bank is steep, slippery, and covered with stones and roots; the other bank is sandy, with an easy slope. The passage commenced by sending five volunteers across; they had the difficult task of receiving the horses upon the opposite bank, not allowing them to land at the place where the bank is closed by rafts, but forcing them to go over two hundred yards farther. The troops, preceded by their chiefs, then crossed in column of threes. It was a strange sight to see these heads of horses and men spread over the river and hardly visible from the front of departure. The silence was only broken by the neighing of the horses, which could be heard for a long distance. The head of the column entered the water at twenty minutes past six, and twelve minutes after it reached the opposite bank. The men swam on the "up river" side, most of them holding by the mane; those whose horses moved more slowly, held to the tail; some swam across, holding the reins in the teeth only. The horses were not unbridled."

"A non commissioned officer," continues the writer, "crossed without a horse, eight minutes ahead of the volunteers, and selected the point of landing. The regimental commander announced that those who could not swim or feared to cross might remain on the right bank, but no one excepted this offer. The small boats that had been provided to carry aid in case of need were only used by the spectators. It was not easy to make the horses leave the bank or to get them to cross the current. It was necessary to swim over four hundred yards along the bank at one hundred yards from the shore; besides the horses had to jump into the water from the top of a steep bank. The movement was executed more easily by the horses in rear of the first. Some, moreover, took the current directly; two or three horses, after reaching the middle of the river, wished to return, but were prevented by the Cossacks swimming by their sides; two or three tried to throw themselves upon each other (one on account of fatigue), but their riders succeeded in restraining them. Upon the opposite bank, after resting for five minutes, the return was executed with more order and quickness, the horses moving more willingly, and crossing the current in a better manner. The entire distance in going was over eighteen hundred yards, which made more than two miles for the double trip."

### Regimental and Other News.

Bandmaster Lewis, of the 43rd battalion, intends to retire into private life about the 1st of April.

Col. Gzowski, A.D.C. to the Queen, has been re-elected President of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers.

Sir Adolphe Caron, Minister of Militia, has been confined to his home for some days by the common enemy, la grippe.

A movement is on foot to organize in Montreal a French regiment in succession to the old Fourth Battalion, disbanded many years ago.

Lieut. General Laurie, M. P., is not expected to be in the Commons this session, having gone to England to have an operation performed on his leg, which he severely injured more than a year ago.

Lieut. R. C. Brown of the 96th Battalion, and a prominent resident of Portage la Prairie, Man., has been so sick that for a time his death was momentarily expected. He had the influenza, and venturing out too soon a relapse occurred, and inflammation set in.

Assistant Surgeon W. F. Scott, of the 43rd Battalion, was this week elected Mayor of Hull city, for which he has been an alderman for many years. The election is by the council, who annually confer the honour on one of their number. The 43rd are well represented in Hull's governing body, Major Joshua Wright being also a member, having been elected alderman by acclamation a few weeks ago.

The Winnipeg *Siftings* reports the Ninetieth Battalion as in anything but a flourishing condition. Says that paper: "The meeting of Ninetieth non-coms., called for the purpose of organizing for battalion drill, was not by any means a brilliant success, about a dozen only turning out. We noticed present Colour Sergeant Stevenson, Serjts. Symons and Davis, Corpls. Becket and Russell. General regret was expressed at the lack of interest shown in regimental matters by the non-coms and men. We understand that Colour Serjt. Stevenson is leaving the Ninetieth. We are very sorry for this, as he was one of the most enthusiastic and energetic workers in the battalion. It is a great measure owing to the efforts of Colour Serjt. Stevenson that E Company occupies so leading a position in the corps to-day. Things are not at their best with the L.B.D.'s just at present, and men like Colour Serjt. Stevenson cannot but be badly missed from their already seriously depleted ranks."

### The Military College ex-Cadets.

The sixth annual meeting of the Royal Military College Club was held at the Queen's Hotel, Toronto, last week, Capt. Wm. Davis, 22nd Battalion, in the chair. Among the others present were: Capt. F. W. White, Militia Department, Ottawa; Capt. S. A. Denison, I.S.C., London; Lieuts. Laurie, I.S.C., Toronto; Kenneth Campbell, C Company, Dragoon Guards, England; B. McLennan, C.P.R., Montreal; J. A. A. Smart, Hamilton; D. Mackay, W. A. H. Kerr, W. C. Brough, C.E., A. Evans, C.E., R. A. Brock, I. Homfray Irving, Toronto; Capt. W. E. Van Buskirk, C.E., Stratford; Capt. J. Dixon, G. E. Laidlaw. The secretary's report showed the club to be in a flourishing condition, its membership having increased from 83 to 100 during the past year. The proposal to establish a Royal Military College journal at Kingston, under the auspices of the college staff, had fallen through. The club, through the untiring exertions of the president, Captain Davis and Mr. White, with others, had obtained the issue of a militia regulation providing for the promotion of graduates holding rank in the militia. Attention was called to the non-recognition by the Institute of Engineers, England, of the military college as an engineering institution, and it was thought that this matter could be rectified by the Government.

Major-General J. R. Oliver, C.M.G., was elected an honorary member. The following officers were elected for 1890: President, Capt. S. A. Denison, D Co., I.S.C.; vice-president, W. A. H. Kerr, Toronto; secretary-treasurer, F. W. White, Ottawa (re-elected); committee, Capt. D. M. McPherson, Victoria Rifles, Montreal; Mr. McLennan, Canadian Pacific Railway, Montreal; Mr. Drury, "Short Line," Ottawa; Mr. Van Buskirk, C.E., Stratford; Capt. E. Wertell, Royal Rifles. The club has among its members Lieut. D. Stairs, R.E., of Central Africa fame, and Capt. H. B. MacKay, R.E., the latter being the first Canadian to receive the Distinguished Service order. Mr. W. A. H. Kerr, one of the graduates, is now studying law with Messrs. Blake, Lash and Cassels.

The annual dinner was held in one of the parlours of the Queen's hotel in the evening. Letters of regret for absence from the dinner were received from Sir Alex. Campbell, K.C.M.G., Sir Adolphe Caron, K.C.M.G., Sir Fred Middleton, K.C.M.G., Col. Panet, Col. Walker Powell, Lt.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., Lt. Col. F. C. Denison, Messrs. R. S. White, M.P., and James Sutherland, M.P. In addition to those at the annual meeting the following were present in the evening: Major Delamere, Q.O.R.; Capt. J. Baldwin, Second Regiment Cavalry; Lieut. W. S.