

the Army Act would relieve the sensitive feeling of the officer that he was at the mercy of any superior who from any motive might report adversely upon him.

It could not be expected that the doling out of a few shillings at intervals of several years would keep the force intact.

There was at present no reward to officers of volunteers for extra zeal or service of any special nature, such as the organization of cycling, signalling, transport, machine guns and ambulance, or the establishment of rifle ranges and tactics. These special services ought to be recognized. This programme should be a saving in the volunteer vote, and if not it would mean a saving to the nation in the greatly improved condition of the force for any increased outlay.

The only alternative for the efficiency of the volunteers was to put in force the ballot for the militia, with exemption to men who had served, say five or seven years, in the volunteers. The annual numbers to be drawn for the maintenance of the militia would mean a very small percentage of the able bodied manhood of the country. The standard of the men would be raised and the militia filled with men rather than as at present with merely boys. Many of those who would be drawn would be quite content to put in their time at soldiering, but those who dreaded the possibility of having to lie thirteen in a tent with a Tower Hamlet coster, or a mid-country miner, would flock into the volunteer force, with the result that an entrance fee and an annual subscription could be demanded, and applicants would be made to supply their own uniform and equipment as was done in the early days of the volunteer movement. Under the new conditions it would cost the nation nothing, and its strength would be increased to half a million men. It would become a corps d'elite, the equal of which the world has never seen. The standard of drill, shooting and efficiency could be maintained, for if every condition of the service were not fulfilled and the most perfect discipline displayed, commanding officers could withhold the efficiency certificate which exempted them from the militia ballot. To form a volunteer reserve, the term in the active volunteers could be limited to five years, with five more in the volunteer reserve. In such a force officers could be made to attain the same high standard as in the regular army.

Such an army could be made thoroughly mobile, and a mobile army is better than fixed fortifications. Much annual expenditure would thus be saved on masonry and heavy ordnance. Needless to say, all fears for the invasion of these islands would be at an end. To prevent even an attempt at such an invasion, it would be necessary to show that not only would our fleet have to be defeated or decoyed away, but that a strong mobile army, strong in numbers, organization, discipline and efficiency, would have to be dealt with before landing.

LEAGUE SCORES.

Editor CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

SIR,—The 59th Battalion had the good fortune to bunch their scores in the first League Match this year, with the result that they have come out away ahead of all the other teams. This has caused two or three leading papers to condemn us, at once, and without any investigation, of having "cooked the score." Now, it is a hard matter to prove the score we made, except by affidavits from all interested, and these, we are satisfied, will not be believed any more than our score was, but we would just like riflemen to withhold their verdict in this matter for a while, as we propose to take steps to prove all the scores we make from this out, and although we may never reach 927 again, we are satisfied that we can come close enough to it to clear us of the stigma which now rests on us.

We hope you will publish this, in the interest of the League, as well as of ourselves, as if teams, situated like ourselves, are not to be allowed to make over 700 or 800, without being called dishonest, they might as well drop out at once. Yours truly,

J. L. WELLER,
Capt. and Adjutant, 59th Battalion.

Cornwall, 28th May, 1896.

Editor CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

DEAR SIR—I note there has been some unfavorable criticism by the newspapers of the very fine team score made by the 59th Batt., (Cornwall), in their first match in the C.M.R.L. on the 16th inst.

I wish to say, for the benefit of those interested in the League matches, that at the request of the gentlemen who compose the 59th team, there will be two of the League Executive at the 59th Batt. range, at Cornwall, (one at the butt and one at the firing points), at each of the next three League matches.

This is considered desirable both in justice to the Cornwall team as well as all other teams shooting in the League.

Yours respectfully,
W. M. ANDREWS, Capt.
Sec., C.M.R.L.

Montreal, May 29th, 1896.

[THE MILITARY GAZETTE has no reason to doubt the reliability of the scores referred to above from what it knew of the officers of the 59th, who were responsible for the figures. Before the competition THE GAZETTE had the results of some practice matches in which equally good shooting was made.

Since these letters were received the second match has been fired. Major Ibbotson, 5th Scots, Montreal, was in the butts and Capt. Cameron, of the same regiment, was at the firing point. Major Ibbotson says he was in the butts only a short time when he saw that there could be no doubt of the reliability of the figures in the first match. There was such a gale that when they were driving through Cornwall on the way to the ranges it carried boxes and barrels down the street. The range is a good one but has no more protection from the wind than that at Cote St. Luc or Long Branch. In this blow the team made 862 points. Lieut. Weller made 94, while six men made over 90. It may be mentioned that Mr. Weller is an R.M.C. graduate. At the next match Lieut.-Col. Massey and Capt. Andrews will be present.—EDITOR MILITARY GAZETTE.]

THE MILITARY COLLEGE.

Editor CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

SIR, I have been looking with no little anxiety for some satisfactory explanation of that startling statement of THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE of 1st April, and reiterated in its issues of 15th April and 1st May, as to

the prevalence of drinking, to an alarming extent among the cadets of the Royal Military College, and this owing to laxity of discipline.

Now this is a matter of unquestionable gravity, which must, most seriously, affect the college and should demand a prompt and most searching investigation.

If the statement be false, unfounded, let THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE at once acknowledge its error and apologize as fully and freely as it has circulated the charge.

If, on the other hand, the accusation be true, the public from one end of the Dominion to the other should know something of the *modus operandi* of an institution which takes annually in the neighborhood of \$60,000 out of the public exchequer, and at least have the right of saying whether or not such a state of things shall be permitted to continue.

There must be many an anxious eye watching the issue of this most important question. Let it be dealt with both honestly and fearlessly.

I should like to ask this question in closing: Does the college permit any cadet to use intoxicating liquors as a beverage in "moderation," and does it clearly define the term "moderation?"

Yours, etc.,
FRED. WHITLEY,
11 Summerhill Avenue.

Montreal, May 29, 1896.

[The writer of this letter commands the Montreal troop 6th Hussars, and is one of the best officers in the militia. His letter reflects the feeling of hundreds of other officers and citizens. As officers they are interested in seeing the college a credit to the force; and as citizens are looking to it as a school for their boys, where as much interest will be taken in their welfare as if they were under the paternal roof. Capt. Whitley raises a new and important point when he asks General Cameron if liquor is permitted as a beverage in the college. We think the best way to settle the question is for General Cameron to adopt Capt. Whitley's hint and ask an investigation. Such enquiry must be independent and not like some other committees of enquiry—appointed to handle a whitewash brush. In this connection a reader of THE GAZETTE asks: How can General Cameron deny the truth of the charges when he knows so little of the cadets or their doings that he cannot call all the fourth year men by name—a matter which was reported to the Board of Visitors?—ED. MILITARY GAZETTE.]

Mr. Cartwright, of Toronto, secretary of the Ontario Rifle Association, has notified Lieut.-Col. Bacon, secretary Dominion Rifle Association, that he will be unable to take his place on the Bisley team. The secretary has invited Sergt. Lavers, 6th Fusiliers, Montreal, who is next on the list, to fill the vacancy.

Officers and men of the militia will help THE MILITARY GAZETTE very much if they and their friends in making purchases will give the preference to those firms which advertise with us. They can help us still further by recommending the paper to any firms who sell goods that are used by military men in every part of Canada, either as military men or in their private capacity. tf.