

SIR FRED. MIDDLETON proposes to give a second lecture, on the duties of officers on outpost work, on Monday evening next, in the drill hall. We hope to see all in Ottawa interested in militia work invited and in attendance.

INVENTIONS are multiplying so rapidly in the direction of improvements in ordnance and ammunition that any attempt to keep pace with them would be a useless task. Amongst the latest are two reported from the States. Lieut. Zalinski's gun, to fire a dynamite-charged projectile by compressed air is not altogether new, but it is quite lately that it has been decided to build a swift steamer to carry these guns. As if this were not bad enough, Mr. John Ericsson now comes forward and announces that the *Destroyer* system, which includes a submarine gun of 16 inches calibre, firing a projectile 25 feet long, filled with 300 lbs. guncotton, with a velocity exceeding 300 feet in three seconds, so completely solves the problem of applying sub-marine artillery for defending harbors that he has no occasion to waste time in the consideration of any other method.

Personal.

Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D.A.G., of the Manitoba military district, and Mrs. Houghton, are in town at the Russell.

Lieut. George Crockett, 82nd Batt., Charlottetown, has joined the Infantry School at Fredericton to take a special course. He has held for nine years past a provisional commission.

Major Shippy Spurr, 72nd Second Annapolis Batt. of infantry, of Malvern square, Annapolis county, Nova Scotia, has joined the Fredericton school to take a short course. He already holds a first-class volunteer certificate.

Major Elijah Purdie, adjutant of the 82nd "Queen's County" battalion of infantry, Charlottetown, P.E.I., went to Fredericton last month to attend the infantry school, having crossed Northumberland Straits in one of the ice boats. He proposes to take a special course for a first-class certificate.

The *Manitoban* in referring to the words of praise of Col. Powell's valuable services, which have from time to time appeared in these columns, thus describes the work done by another officer who it claims has not received due recognition. Lieut.-Col. Peebles, the paymaster and director of stores of this district, was at his desk from early morn until dusk at the outbreak, and long before the brigade office staff, under Lieut.-Col. Jackson, entered on its duties, he had inaugurated a thorough system to which much of the success of the supply and pay departments is due, and had borne the burden and heat of the day for the most critical period when everything had to be evolved out chaos. It is hoped that some recognition of Lieut.-Col. Peebles' services will yet be made, as he has not yet received even the medal.

Major Perley, headquarters staff, and formerly captain of the New Brunswick engineers, has been visiting St. John, and was warmly welcomed by hosts of friends, and congratulated on his recent promotion. Major Perley takes the deepest interest in the militia, and on the subject of shooting is as keen as ever.

The new commander of the Queen's Own, Lieut.-Col. D. H. Allan, is forty-five years of age, a native of Ontario, and a barrister by profession. His military record goes back to 1864, when he joined No. 1 company of the 28th battalion, Stratford, Ont., as a private. In March, 1866, he went to Toronto to attend the military school, then conducted by Imperial officers, and while there attached himself to A company of the Queen's Own, in order to avail himself of the opportunity thus afforded to get some extra drill. That June the Fenian raid occurred, which gave Private Allan the chance of seeing active service for the first time, for he procured a permanent transfer to his new corps and, with the consent of the officers of the school, accompanied them to the front and participated in the fight at Ridgeway, returning to Toronto a sergeant. He secured a first-class certificate at the school. Taking up his residence in Toronto somewhat later, he continued his connection with the Queen's Own, being promoted successively from the ranks till now he finds himself in command of the regiment. As a captain he took much interest in his company, especially in rifle shooting, in which

branch of military proficiency he has never ceased to warmly advocate the more thorough training of the active force. He was for many years chairman of the regimental rifle committee, and as such, coupled with the fact of his being himself an excellent shot, he has been the means of bringing the regiment into the position of being, as a shooting corps, second to none in the Dominion. During the campaign of 1885 he was second in command of the contingent of his corps which formed part of the Battleford column.

Lieut.-Col. Wm. T. Baird, whose retirement from the paymastership of No. 8 district was gazetted on the 5th, can count half a century's service in the militia of his country. Col. Baird's career began by his volunteering as a member of the Fredericton rifles, and he saw his first service during the boundary line troubles and in the so-called Canadian rebellion. Three years after, in 1841, he aided in organising a rifle company in Woodstock, and was commissioned lieutenant. During the Orange riot at Woodstock, in 1847, he commanded the guard for the defence of the town. In 1849 he obtained command of the Woodstock company, and his performance of his duties so well justified the choice that to-day every old resident of Woodstock remembers the proficiency and activity of Capt. Baird's men. The year 1859 saw the company ordered out by the lieutenant-governor to suppress the railway riots, and they were suppressed. In 1860 and 1861, Capt. Baird's service was of a more peaceful and pleasing nature, for in the former year he commanded the guard of honor to the Prince of Wales, at Fredericton; and in the latter the guard to Prince Alfred, at Woodstock. The four years following, however, brought him sterner business. In 1862, he organized and commanded the post service on the frontier for the prevention of desertion, in connection with the Trent affair. The posts were located at Woodstock, Florenceville, Tobique, and Grand Falls, and here he was occupied for three months. On the 1st January, 1863, he received the merited honor of being gazetted lieutenant-colonel, and June 8th of the same year he was gazetted deputy quartermaster general, in which capacity he went with the company assembled in 1865, under orders of Col. Anderson, commanding on the frontier, to St. Andrews to repel the Fenian force. In 1865, by a general order, Col. Baird was placed in command of the 2nd battalion service militia, 26 days in camp at Fredericton. The brigade was inspected July 8th, 1865, by General Doyle, who bore strong testimony to the discipline of the camp. In 1866, Col. Baird again proved his efficiency as an officer, by organizing and commanding a battalion 400 strong, which was detailed for frontier service at the time of the Fenian raid. In 1868, Col. Baird organized the 67th battalion Carleton light infantry. During the same year he commanded the guard of honor to Prince Arthur at Woodstock. In 1869, Col. Baird was appointed paymaster of military district No. 8, and in 1870 was made district storekeeper in this city. And now after a lifetime spent in militia service, the last eighteen years being almost exclusively engaged in his official duties, the regulations are such that he is now only entitled to a gratuity of two years' pay, \$1,400 in all.

Recent Deaths.

The news of the death of Capt. C. F. S. Spry, commanding No. 1 company, 35th Simcoe Foresters, has been received. Capt. Spry was one of the youngest officers in the force, and was probably the youngest who served through the rebellion of 1885. He was buried with military honors on the 18th. The procession was one of the largest ever seen in Barrie. Among the mourners were Messrs. C. G. Fortier, collector Inland Revenue, Hamilton, grandfather; H. G. Fortier and W. H. Fortier, Toronto, and H. D. Fortier, Hamilton, uncles of the deceased, and J. Ross Robertson and James Greenfield, Toronto. The pallbearers were Major Rogers, Major Ward, Lieut. O'Brien, Lieut. Crease, Lieut. McKee and Capt. Smith. The firing party, composed of members of Capt. Spry's late company, was commanded by Capt. Powell.

Lieut.-Col. Martin H. Peters, who retired from the command of the N. B. G. A., two years ago, died on the 5th inst., at his residence, Carleton, at the age of 67, from the effects of an accident which he had sustained a week previously, while engaged in rescuing goods from a burning building. The deceased gentleman was better known as Dr. Peters, he having, for twenty-five years, practised, with success, the profession of medicine. He was the son of the Hon. Charles J. Peters, the last attorney-general of New Brunswick appointed by the Crown. He gave much of his time and ability to the military service of the province. Colonel Peters was connected with the artillery for a period of over thirty years, and always took the deepest interest in his corps and the militia. After the retirement of Colonel Foster, he commanded the corps until he reached the limit of age. The Carleton battery was for a long time commanded by him, and was considered most efficient in every way. The funeral took place on the 8th, and was attended by a