

and accoutrements to every corps on its organization. Officers, however, have to equip themselves entirely at their own expense, an outfit costing from \$250 to \$600 according to the branch of the service. Officers and men are paid for their services according to their rank, the militia act providing that not more than sixteen days drill per annum should be paid for, the usual number of days drill now being twelve. In most of the principal corps this drill pay is turned into the regimental fund in order to bear the expenses not provided for by the government, which in a first class corps are very heavy. The militia are liable to be called out at any moment for active service in case of invasion, insurrection or riot, and for such service are paid according to the rank. It is unnecessary to specify the occasions on which the force or portions of it have been called to arms as most of our readers can well remember them. Commissions in the militia are issued in the name of the Queen under the hand of the Governor-General. There is no doubt but that Canada produces splendid material for soldiers, and in case of necessity the Canadian militia would form an important portion of the defence of the empire on whose flag the sun never sets and to which we are so proud to belong.

Cavalry Remounts

THOSE officials to whom has been entrusted the responsibility of purchasing horses for our cavalry and artillery are surely pursuing a shortsighted and dangerous policy, in directing their attention to the development of foreign or colonial importations rather than encouraging the enterprise of British stock-breeders. Their only claim to justification, so far as we can see, is the old, mean, tradesman's motto. "Buy in the cheapest market," and it is doubtful whether that claim can be sustained. Even the tradesman does not carry this principle into all the affairs of every-day life; but, recognising the fact that his own prosperity depends in no small degree on the general welfare of the town or village community to which he belongs, he buys many things of neighbors at home, though fully aware that it is by no means the cheapest market. It is no doubt both wise and seemly that we should make friends with our colonies, and draw closer the bonds of mutual interest between the mother-country and her stalwart sons; but the best way to achieve those desirable objects is not by sacrificing the special interests of anybody in particular. We are told that it is necessary to go farther afield in search of suitable animals, because the horses to be found in Great Britain and Ireland are either not of the stamp most suitable for a trooper, or they cannot be procured in sufficient numbers, and are consequently much too dear. We venture to doubt these propositions; but even if substantially true, they can hardly be of more than temporary application. Careful inspection of the troop horses recently imported from Canada, and a comparison of the prices given for them with the rate paid to English, Scotch, or Irish breeders, convince us that no appreciable improvement of class has been secured nor any real saving effected. True, the average prices are a little lower, but these Canadian horses have been bought in many cases without the severe and prolonged trial that would have been insisted on by officers purchasing troopers in any part of the United Kingdom; the risk of injury during a voyage across the Atlantic is so considerable that a wide margin will have to be allowed for horses from that source; and the Canadian horses do not look like standing the wear and tear of rough work so well as the majority of those bred at home. It must be confessed, however, that they are free from the taint of many hereditary imperfections that disfigure and disqualify a very large proportion of British-bred horses. But the blemishes here referred to are simply the outcome of faulty methods that might easily be corrected by recourse to an intelligent system. The British Isles are still the home of the highest and most perfect breeds of horse the world has ever seen, and here we should at least continue to raise stock for every national purpose, and especially for all military requirements. Probably, in order to secure this end, the best means would be the establishment of stud farms, not after the example set by any continental nation, but in accordance with our insular peculiarities. We want to foster, and not stifle, individual enterprise. Therefore each stud farm should be simply the nucleus for an improved system of breeding in a given district. The studs should be subsidised by a government grant or supported wholly by government, and farmers resident within certain limits should have the use of horses belonging to the stud of their district at a nominal fee, but only on condition that they send only mares perfectly sound in health and free from hereditary faults. Eight or ten such studs might be established in different parts of Ireland, where they would probably serve a political object of some use at present, and be accepted as a boon by all except malcontent agitators, a similar number in Scotland, and perhaps twenty in various counties of England and Wales. The details of management might be very easily organised, and perhaps it would be well that the government should reserve for itself the "first refusal" at a stipulated price of every foal so bred when it reached the

age of three years. By establishing a system something after this model we should be keeping the horse supply in our own hands, and encouraging a national production that would be certain to develop in a few years to such an extent that we need never have recourse again to foreign countries or our colonies for artillery and cavalry horses.—*A. and H. G. Gazette.*

Captain Page's Services.

THE Canadian militia is the first branch of the auxiliary forces to receive the new Order of Merit. Captain Page, of the Dominion service, gets the decoration for the battle of Giniss. The Canadians should, and no doubt will, appreciate the honor done to them through their representative in Egypt, and it should act as an incentive to the colonists to prepare themselves to play their part in any military operation in which the mother country may engage. The selection of Capt. Page was in every sense a wise one. It will give a fillip to "amateur" soldiering throughout Her Majesty's dominions, for it is in effect an assurance from the throne that where duty is done by a subject it shall be fittingly acknowledged in whatever capacity the subject may serve in the face of an enemy.—*Army and Navy Gazette.*

"Among the recipients of distinction under the new Distinguished Service Order is Captain Page, of the Canadian militia. Captain Page was engaged in action at Giniss in the course of the Soudan operations, and it is for his services on that occasion that he receives the present distinction. The Giniss engagement, it will be remembered, took place at the close of 1885, when General Stephenson, commanding a detachment of British and Egyptian troops, attacked the Soudanese, and, after a sharp encounter, repulsed the rebel force." Captain Page, whose distinction is above recorded, is an old Winnipegger, and was a lieutenant in the 90th battalion, resigning to go to Egypt with the Canadian voyageurs. When the majority of the latter returned to Canada, Captain Page remained in command of a small armed steamer, the "Lotus," engaged in transport service, reconnoitring, etc., on the Nile. The news of his decoration will be a source of great pleasure to his many friends here.—*Canadian Gazette.*

The Military Governor of To-Day.

TALLEYRAND has described an ambassador as a person who lies abroad for his country's good. The illustration is capable of application to our soldiers who act as governors of military strongholds like Malta and Gibraltar. The notion is steadily permeating the Horse Guards that our generals should sit abroad to be civil to afternoon callers. On this point it is not our intention to lay unpleasant or disparaging inferences. The sentiment of the system is well understood, and it certainly does not synchronise with the old pious or Puritan doctrine that from him to whom much is given much shall be expected. It is a very common thing now to hear in a drawing-room some such reminiscent confessions of travel as this, "Oh, yes, we enjoyed ourselves immensely. General Blazer—he's the governor you know—was most kind to the Earl, reviewed all the troops for us, though the sun registered 150 degrees; and placed his aide-de-camp at our service. Most good, was it not? And the aide—such a nice man, who showed all his interest in Georgina, poor dear." This is the age of globe trotting, and the present season promises to carry an unusually strong contingent of visitors by the overland route. Four earls, a marquis with his royal wife, and half-a-score of illustrious commoners have either booked for India or are upon the point of doing so. Consequently the Governors of Gib. or of Malta, or elsewhere, are promised exceptionally numerous opportunities of showing their civility to their countrymen.

We are not, of course, going for a moment to quarrel with what has been, and may be our turn next. A military governor, who looks after the fortifications rather than his guests, is not a desirable person. He becomes essentially a bore. A former Earl of Lonsdale was in the habit of spending the greater part of each day in bed in his ancestral hall. This sorely troubled his more active brother; but the earl met each fraternal complaint that the place was going to the dogs, with the half-somnolent growl, "You should lie in bed as I do, Cecil, and then you wouldn't see it." So with General Blazer; if he went poking about, it would be to discover weaknesses in the armour of his fortress. Being a conscientious officer, he would reduce his discoveries to paper; his despatch, demanding half a million or so of expenditure, would inevitably possess the double disadvantage of adding to the already sufficiently multiplied troubles of the Secretary of State and the "Duke," and of getting himself voted a pragmatist busybody, in Pall Mall. As a crowning mortification, his despatch, or a synopsis of it, would fall into the hands of one of "those damned newspaper fellows," who would print it, and thus bring Parliament itself down upon the fortifications of the