

vincial property and provincial interests stand in equal need of protection as those of the Dominion; but it is a well-known fact that they, as a rule, close their ears to requests of this nature; anything that may be granted is made a special favour of and given only after much circumlocution and exercise of political influence. It is becoming more and more apparent that to the Federal Government alone must promoters of military objects look for the necessary assistance, and it is therefore pleasing to see that the above grants have been made.

In addition to the foregoing list of current outlay on the Militia for 1891-2, there have been certain expenses incurred for military buildings, departmental management, and pensions:—

For military buildings the figures are:—

Brantford Drill Hall	\$ 46 15
Kingston Military College	15 78
London Military Buildings	2,799 12
Toronto Drill Hall	39,926 20
Toronto Military School	3,295 42
Quebec Drill Hall	250 00
Winnipeg Military Buildings	3,929 27
Victoria " "	403 35
Victoria Drill Hall	2,865 50

A total of

\$ 53,530 79

Other disbursements are:

Office of Department of Militia—Salaries ...	\$ 49,721 54
" " Contingencies	5,061 07
New Militia Pensions	3,147 50
Old Militia Pensions	2,720 50
Rebellion of 1885, Militiamen	20,604 45
Do. Mounted Police }	4,003 92
Prince Albert Volunteers }	
Veterans of War of 1812	540 00
Expenses of Rebellion, N.W.T.	3,956 47

The outlay on military buildings appears very moderate, especially as the long-wanted Drill Hall at Toronto absorbs almost three-fourths of it. The item of departmental salaries and contingencies, \$55,000, seems large, and it would be interesting to know if a considerable saving could not be made in this way, and the difference applied to something of more practical use to the force.

When are Martinis to be Served Out?

With the beginning of a new year, and the near advent of a fresh session of Parliament, the interest of military men in the matter of a new rifle is deepened. It is undoubtedly the great question of the day, so far as the Militia are concerned, and one about which too much cannot be said. If necessary, every other mooted improvement can afford to be passed over this year, if the present antiquated and uncertain weapon can be replaced by Martinis; and the change is wanted at once, before the Spring practices begin. Officers commanding regiments, and all others who can bring any influence to bear on members of the House, should be constant in season and out of season, in impressing on their representatives the necessity of this step, and the disfavour and positive disgust with which shooting men regard the Snider. One thing is almost certain, and that is, that the Dominion Rifle Association, and every Provincial Association that is worth its salt, will hereafter ignore Snider-shooting in their matches.

A Brave Rifleman.

In the letter in this issue from our Kingston correspondent mention is made of the heroic conduct of Private Boulter, "A" Co. P. W. O. Rifles, who lost his life in the unavailing effort to save that of the young lady who was with him. Such action has in other cases been the theme for glowing tributes from orator and poet; in this instance it has received scant

notice. The gallant and self-sacrificing conduct shown by this young soldier will be long remembered by his sorrowing relatives and by his *confreres* in the Fourteenth, and deserves to be brought to the attention of the whole force. We trust that means will not be lacking for a suitable memorial tablet from his comrades in the service.

Finances.

We must remind our friends that the sinews of war are as necessary in the publishing of a newspaper as in anything else. We trust, therefore, that all who are in arrears for subscription to the *Canadian Military Gazette* will remit what they owe at the earliest possible moment. By looking at the date on the address label you can see up to when your subscription is paid; the calculation as to what you then owe is not a difficult one. If there is no date on label, it shows that you have paid nothing, when it becomes all the more reason to remit promptly. All subscriptions to end of 1893 are now due.

An Apology.

This issue is again very late, on account of exceptional mechanical difficulties, over which the editor has no control. New arrangements have been made under which next issue will appear in one week following this, and that of 15th February following promptly on time. The delay is fully as annoying to us as it is to our subscribers.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—Your little article headed "The New Minister of Militia" hits the nail on the head.

The Militia wants modern arms, a proper equipment (in store, at any rate) and ammunition, abundant ammunition. Given these, we can do without the increased pay you recommend.

The artillery corps, in particular, require more practice with their weapons—the League have secured plenty of ammunition for the infantry. Look at our gunners—only one fifth of the men in a garrison battery get a chance to fire at the annual practice!!

If the reason of this is that the expense of firing off our 64 pounders is too great, then let our garrison batteries have at their disposal, for practice, a couple of 9 pounders. A man learns more by one day's actual firing, than by many weeks of drill with dummy cartridges.

No sane person would think of keeping up a cavalry corps with saddles but without horses. Why then artillery with guns, but without ammunition?

In the old country, where ammunition is supplied liberally, artillery is one of the most popular branches of the service with volunteers,—here, where the supply is scant, it is not—there may be other reasons, but if any there be, they do not occur to me. Let us then have ammunition—let us feel that we are familiar with the use of our material—let us put what we learn at drill into practice—then you will see that Garrison Artillerymen will not fall out after their first three years service.

Victoria, B. C.

MILES,

P. S.—Another advantage about the 9 pounders we could supplement the government allowance of ammunition by purchasing some for ourselves.