

of companies and battalions, and the amalgamation of the existing units is certainly the most satisfactory way of accomplishing that. There are difficulties, and plenty of them in the way, but they can surely be overcome in every case, if they can be in amalgamating two old corps with such splendid records and such distinct individuality as the two Montreal regiments which are now passing through the ordeal. We feel now that devotion to the force, a practical loyalty which should make us willing to pocket some of our *esprit de corps* even, will lead officers to assist General Herbert and the Department in the great reform which they are inaugurating, a reform which has long been desired, and which cannot be carried out any too soon.

The benefits to be derived by the force from reducing the number of units and increasing the strength of those remaining are so evident as to scarcely call for comment. We have always maintained that the allowances to efficient corps were too scanty, but have also held that a great deal of money was wasted in connection with many wholly inefficient corps. This prospective reorganization will put a full stop to the waste on skeleton battalions, the remaining corps will be strong enough to draw allowance sufficient to keep the wheels moving, and in fact there should be such a saving as to allow of allowances all round being increased. It will come hard on inefficient corps, but the efficient ones will reap the benefit, as they deserve it. It is better to have fifty thoroughly efficient and well-maintained corps in the Dominion than a hundred struggling little battalions, many of which exist only on paper and are utterly valueless as military units. We are for amalgamation all along the line.

When on earth may we expect the Militia Dept. to promulgate the "establishment list" for 1894-95? The General Order said it would be laid before parliament and promulgated in Militia General Orders each year. Parliament has been in session over two months and still there is no sign of the long looked for list. Some corps have about completed their drill for 1894-95 and are to be inspected this month; others again, such as the Toronto corps, have completed more than half of it without knowing what their strength is to be. We would like to know the strength which the Montreal corps, who have completed their drill, are to be paid for. In this

connection it is understood that in the new "Establishment List," the No. of companies per battalion is to be largely reduced. For instance the Q. O. R. and Royal Grenadiers, Toronto, 10 company battalions of 42 men per company, are to be reduced to 8 companies per battalion of 64 men per company, and the Victoria Rifles, Montreal, a 6 company battalion to 4 companies of 64 men each. In this way the proportion of officers to men will be largely decreased. As it is now there is one officer to 8 men. But the 64 men per company will make the proportion about one officer to 17 men. This is as it should be a good strong company of 32 files, is far better every way than 2 weak companies of half the strength. If this reduction takes place, the number of officers in excess of the authorized strength will have done so without pay.

There is no sign yet of the militia list corrected to Jan. 1st 1894. In the old days when there was but an Adjutant-General at Ottawa, the list was issued some time in April. But now with an Adjutant-General, Quarter-Master General, Assistant Adjutant General and Inspector of Artillery Headquarters, it is not out in May—5 months, and no sign of it yet. If the staff at Ottawa is increased any more, we need not expect the list probably during the same year. It was reported that the list was to be issued, corrected to 30th June each year to make it conform to the militia report. If so, we will now have a list just one year old, and little, if any, practical value. No explanation is forthcoming as to the unaccountable delay, Will the Militia Dept. not enlighten us? We think the Dept. might add a few pages to the back of the book giving corrections to date, say 1st June as is done in "Hart's Annual Army List." In this way the militia list would be up to date. But this suggestion is not made with a view of holding it back for 2 or 3 months more.

We notice by the Government press that Mr. Campbell, the poet, has been transferred from the Militia Department to the State Department. When this gentleman was appointed we were told by the Government press of his fitness for the Militia Department on account of being a literary man, and how he would get up the early military history of Canada, now that he has been transferred to the State Department, the early military history idea is forgotten. The appointment of

any person to a military position who is without any military knowledge is a fraud on the country. No person should be appointed except military men, why do we go to the enormous expense yearly of maintaining a military college, if we do not get some of its graduates for military appointments. No person outside of our Militia Department would think of selecting a person with no military knowledge for military appointments, yet this is what is done at Ottawa. This reminds us that we are somewhat curious to know how the Minister of Militia can reconcile his statement that the militia was divorced from politics, by his recent appointment of a man as assistant to the militia architect who is utterly without any professional knowledge of military engineering. Surely of our military college is any good at all, it could have provided a graduate capable of filling this position. This is the more unaccountable as graduates of the college go direct into the Royal engineers. It seems a strange anomaly that the country should go to the expense of educating military engineers, and then for the Militia Department to select a gentleman without any military engineering education for the militia engineer service.

R. & O. 1887, par. 9, states that appointments to the District Staff of Militia shall not be tenable for a longer period than 5 years. Some of the D. A. G's have been from 8 to 15 years in one district. It is not about time the regulations in this respect were altered to conform to the policy of the department not to transfer the D. A. G's.

The militia report has very full accounts of the state of efficiency, clothing, musketry, &c., of the militia corps that drilled. But no such report is made concerning the permanent corps. Why is this? By the Queen's regulations general officers commanding are required to make full and exhaustive reports upon the personal efficiency, conduct, character, acquirements and services of every officer in the unit and of all military staff officers. This is in addition to his report on the general efficiency of the units; their clothing, interior economy, administration, messing, musketry, &c. Why is this not done in Canada? If such a report is made, it is quietly suppressed. We know nothing from the general's report, as to how our regulars are clothed, fed, housed, or their figure of merit for musketry fire. Is this latter so bad that it is not published, or is it omitted altogether? Please tell us, as we would like to know how our regulars can shoot—if at all.