

She may also constitute a permanent staff, and may, at her discretion, disband the volunteers. Volunteers are not paid like members of the regular army, but there is a grant annually for them. By another section they may be called out in case of imminent national danger." In this respect the Canadian Militia hold a similar position, and, as militia, their claim to exemption from taxation, on any properties used by them for regimental or other purposes, is even stronger than that of the English volunteer. The decision is worthy of careful record.

#### SNOW SHOE EXERCISE IN THE GERMAN ARMY.

There are now being made in certain corps of the German army some very interesting experiments relative to the introduction of snow shoes, to permit of marching and service on a campaign in the severest weather.

The snow shoes used by the German soldiers are the same as those that have been employed for centuries in the countries of the north of Europe—Norway, Lapland, etc. They consist of a thin strip of wood about a yard in length, a little wider than the foot, turned under and curved at the extremity and shod with iron. Every one uses them in Norway, and the results obtained are truly wonderful. During the deepest snows the rural postman owes to them the possibility of continuing his service, not only without delay, but with amazing rapidity. The hunters of the country, provided with snow shoes, pursue the hare and despatch it with a simple blow of the cane. The Norwegian soldiers, it is unnecessary to say, could not remain strangers to this national sport. So, since the middle of the last century, there has existed in their country companies of light infantry broken in to marching on snow shoes and capable of rendering the greatest services in case of a winter campaign. At present all the Norwegian corps of infantry annually perform manoeuvres upon the snow with the aid of these shoes, and, in their cantonments, even get up racing matches on snow shoes.

The foot soldiers of the Dutch army are exercised in the same way upon the frozen canals that abound in their country.

Finally, in the Russian army, certain corps (the sharpshooters of the Imperial family and the Finnish sharpshooters) are provided with analogous snow shoes.

Not wishing to remain in a state of inferiority in this regard, in the face of his neighbors, the Emperor of Germany has had snow shoes tried in the Eighty-second regiment of infantry, stationed at Goslar, upon the confines of Hanover and Brunswick.

A model platoon, composed of non-commissioned officers under the direction of an officer, has been trained in the use of the snow shoe, and, thus shod, has executed long marches in the mountains near the city, with all the imitations of battle possible.

#### STERN DISCIPLINE.

The drill sergeant of a Scotch regiment growled to a recruit, "Jock McNab!" "Well, Mon," said Jack. "Hand up your yer muckle heid, mon, an' dinna keep lookin' on the grun, as though ye had drappit a hale three-penny bit." Having occasion to reprimand the same delinquent for scratching his nose while on parade, he cried: "What's that ye're darin'?" "It was a muckle flee on my nose," was the explanation. "Weel, let the neist ane stick there till it thinks fit awa', or I'll ram ye in the gaird room for bein' mis-reg'lar i' the ranks. Losh, if I had my will o' ye, I'd rub yer ugly nob wi' treacle, an' hae a' the flees in the place about it, an' mak' ye staun' stiff at attention a' the time!"

#### FIGHTING ON THE GILGIT FRONTIER.

Lieutenant-Colonel Durand, the British Agent at Gilgit, reports that severe fighting has occurred at Chilas, which was lately occupied by the British. The rebellious tribesmen made a determined attack upon the fort, but were repulsed with a loss of 150 to 200 men. The British losses were also severe, among the killed being Major Avirell Daniell, of the 1st Punjab Infantry, who was shot through the heart while attacking an entrenched village, three native officers, and 19 men; while one native officer and 23 men were severely

wounded. Lieutenant Frederick James Moberley, of the 37th (Dogra) Bengal Native Infantry, and five men were slightly wounded. The enemy fled after their defeat, and no further attack is anticipated. The British Agent adds that he has sent forward reinforcements, and that there is no cause for anxiety. The dispatch does not mention who the enemy were, or by whom they were led, but it is assumed that the trouble is the outcome of a fresh gathering of the tribesmen of the district.

Two hundred and fifty men have been sent forward to reinforce the British troops at Chilas. Major Twigg, of the 12th Bengal Native Infantry, replaces Major Daniell.

#### RIFLES FOR INDIA.

It was stated a few days ago, in the Imperial House of Commons, by Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, that the armament of the troops in India is not under the control of the War Department; but that it is intended that the British infantry should be armed with the magazine rifle and the native troops with Martini-Henry rifles. There are two calibres of Maxim guns to be provided for India, viz., the 45-inch for land defences, and the 3.03-inch for the field. If, therefore, from any cause, the Maxim gun of the Martini-Henry calibre should be sent into the field where European and native troops would be serving together, ammunition of both calibres would be available. There is no intention of substituting the large for small bore for field service.

#### COLOURS OF THE 91ST HIGHLANDERS.

On the 16th March, the old colours of the First Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (the 91st) were escorted from Edinburgh Castle to London, and on the 17th, at Kensington Palace, were presented to H. R. H. Princess Louise, Marchioness of Lorne, who handed them over to the regiment when new. At Edinburgh the colours were brought from the officers' mess to the guard room of the castle. There the escorting detachment, which included the pipe band, was met by the regimental band, and as the colours were received by the guard "Auld Lang Syne" was played. Subsequently, escorted by the sergeants, the colours were taken to the Caledonian Station, and left by the 9.10 p.m. train for the south. Lieut.-Col. Chater, Capt. Henderson, Lieuts. Grant and Dundas, and Surgeon-Major Williamson, Colour Sergeants Scott and Brown accompanied the colours to London, where they were joined by Capt. Cavendish, Sergts. Henderson and Kirk. At London the colours were taken charge of by the Third Grenadier Guards until carried to the palace and presented.

#### A VETERAN MILITIA CORPS.

It has long been a moot point in military circles as to whether the York Troop of Cavalry, the Montreal Cavalry or the St. Andrew's (P.Q.) Cavalry, is the senior corps among the mounted troops of Canada. Major Wanless, the veteran commanding officer of the St. Andrew's Troop and a gentleman possessing much curious information respecting the past history of the Ottawa Valley, who is at the Windsor for a few days, when spoken to on the subject yesterday, remarked that his troop had been in existence since 1816, its first commander having been Capt. Robb, formerly of the regular forces. It formed an escort to the Earl of Dalhousie, then Governor-General, in 1826. Major Wanless has been in the troop for over forty years, and is therefore eligible for the Volunteer Officers' Decoration, should Her Majesty be graciously pleased to extend it to Canadians. It may be added that Major Wanless has in his possession an interesting relic, consisting of the flag which was borne by the troop at St. Eustache in 1837. This banner was presented to the company by the ladies of St. Andrew's on the departure of Wetherall's Brigade for the seat of war. It should be secured for the Military Museum.

Since the above was written, we learn that the Sherbrooke Volunteer Cavalry Troop is also a very old corps, having been organized as long ago as 1818, by Col. Nicholson, who was succeeded in the command, in 1822, by Major Roberts.—*Ottawa Citizen.*