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The Blanket Issue for Camp.

IN the regulations recently issued for the brigade camps about to be held, it is again prescribed as in former years that only one blanket per officer and man is to be issued. No provision is made for serving out rubber sheets so that the men will not have to make their beds upon damp ground.

Time and again the complaint has been made that the men have insufficient covering when sleeping in camp, but the matter ends with the sound of the complaint. We question very much if the particular officer who is responsible for the scanty allowance would himself sleep in camp with but one blanket to cover him, and we know that no officer or other person privileged to bring extra articles to camp ever thinks of contenting himself with the government allowance. The men are entitled to be made comfortable while in camp, and with an abundant supply of spare blankets, and water proof sheets as well, in the military stores, it is not right that anyone should spend miserable nights, shivering with cold and running the risk of contracting disease by the exposure. At the camp of No. 4 district last year, the medical officers discussed this very subject, and passed a resolution advising that in future at least two blankets and one rubber sheet per man be issued. This recommendation was to have been transmitted to the department by the Principal Medical Officer, though it does not appear by the annual report that it actually reached its destination.

As a precaution against taking cold at night it is common for the men to come to camp wearing exceptionally heavy underclothing, with the result that they are not unfrequently overcome by the heat while drilling in the day time, and the remedy is found to be almost as bad as the evil it was designed to cure.

We feel confident that the Minister of Militia, whose kindness of heart no one can question, would be the last person to knowingly allow the men of the force under his care to be put to any discomfort in his power to obviate, and we trust that his attention being called to this matter he will have the order amended so as to provide for an increased issue. The necessity for a change this year will be especially recognized by reason of the exceptional coolness of the season.

Rifle Practice Regulations for 1888-89.

THE regulations for the annual drill of 1888-89, published in our issue of the 17th inst., make exceedingly interesting reading, particularly that portion relating to instruction in rifle practice, which is ordered to be a principal consideration, not only when the camps have been formed, but previously, when the site is being determined upon.

Next to instruction in rifle practice, which cannot take up very much time as only twenty rounds are to be fired by each man, importance is to be attached to instruction of officers and men in drill in extended order for skirmishing as well as for attack formation; and "little or no time is to be given," say the orders, "to marching past, which is merely a parade movement and should be practised and learned before or after the assembly of the camp."

The Lieutenant-General commanding, Sir Fred. Middleton, who loses no opportunity of impressing upon the force the great importance of being able not only to shoot but to hit when shooting, has frequently expressed himself in favour of practice at ranges shorter than those commonly used, and in the regulations this year he has introduced a change to give effect to this view. That is, the first distance for class-firing is instead of two hundred to be one hundred yards, where five rounds are to be fired from a standing position; the same number to be similarly fired at two hundred yards also. Five rounds are to be fired at three hundred yards kneeling, and five at four hundred yards, standing, kneeling, or prone. Being brought to such a short distance as one hundred yards from the target, the recruit will probably make a greater effort to strike it than were he at the comparatively remote distance of two hundred yards, at which, when in the past ten rounds were fired, it was no uncommon sight to see a man blaze away all his cartridges without the hope or endeavour to hit the target, while the man who averaged a hit every second-shot though himself doing remarkably well. And perhaps he was, his opportunities considered.

This year, however, having been broken in at one hundred yards, where no one should miss, the men will probably be more interested at two, and do better than usual at that and succeeding ranges.

Eccentricities in Militia Equipment.

COMMENTING upon a letter recently received from a Canadian correspondent on the subject of eccentricities in the uniform and equipment of our militia, the *Broad Arrow* advises the Minister of Militia to appoint a committee to consider the best description of dress and equipment. For such a commission, says that paper, "there are among Canadian officers many very capable men who, apart from their knowledge of the country, have had practical experience in the field during the Red River Expedition, Fenian raids, and the recent rough experiences in the North-West Rebellion. The Canadian army is now in its infancy, and efforts should be made to make the magnificent material of which it is composed as perfect as possible in every detail. The administrators might commence by at once throwing aside all old-fashioned British traditions as regards clothing and equipment, and initiate ideas practically adapted to the requirements of the country. Why should the Canadians adopt the heavy ornamental parade helmet and tight-fitting scarlet tunic, because the Imperial troops wear them? In England we have a showy uniform, in order to attract recruits and to please the eye of the public, who delight in pretty shows; but as soon as our soldiers go on active or foreign service all this finery is flung aside, and we dress our men in a