

dent of the Institute, occupied the chair, and there was not a vacant seat when the lecture began. Lieut. Girouard is an easy and fluent speaker, and his admirable lecture showed careful preparation and a thorough knowledge of the subject. He spoke for about an hour and a half on modern infantry tactics, and was listened to with great attention. On the conclusion of the lecture, Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D. A. G., arose, and, in a few words, proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer. He had enjoyed the instructive lecture, and agreed with the views set forth in it. Lieut.-Col. Starke seconded the motion, and it was conveyed to Lieut. Girouard by the chairman.

Lieut. Girouard leaves in a few days for South Africa. He is a son of Judge Girouard of this city and a graduate of the Kingston Royal Military College.

Quite a number of the cadets from the R. M. C. spent the Christmas holidays in town.

The Vics are hard at work on the bowling alleys and are in a fair way to winning championship honors in this sport. Both their first and second teams have beaten the M. A. A. A. men and they have also come off ahead in their last match with the Ottawas. Keep it up.

We hope that Morris tub practice will form a part of the instruction of every recruit this spring. Every regiment now has facilities for this training, and the help it would be to recruits, fitting them, as it does, to take their place in front of the targets with an intelligent idea of how to sight and hold their rifles, cannot be over-estimated.

Some old shots are heard who run down gallery shooting as practice for the range, but there can be no doubt that no training is as good for recruits as a course of Morris tube shooting.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Didn't Have His Full Dress.

To the Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

DEAR SIR,—With regard to a letter signed "F. D.," commenting on the appearance of an officer said to have paraded at the brigade church parade on Nov. 3rd last in this city "in a nondescript undress uniform," permit me to inform the writer that he saw a captain in the Royal Engineers for the first time, and that he would be better employed than in making an exhibition of his ignorance in the public press. The officer in question did not happen to have his full dress with him; had he had it "F. D." would have been still more mystified.

Yours, &c.,

R. E. A. D.

Toronto, Jan. 10th, 1896.

Minister of Militia.

To the Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

DEAR SIR,—The unfortunate crisis at Ottawa is of the utmost interest to the militia for the reason that we have lost by it the best Minister of Militia we have ever had. I say "lost," intentionally, because the late minister cannot resume his portfolio without a re-election, though he can assume another within 30 days without going to his constituents. It has been my good fortune to have come closely in contact with four ministers of militia, and I can say that Mr. Dickey is the one who, above all others in my experience, has shown a real and sincere interest in the force. Prompt in the despatch of business, courteous to those with whom he had to deal, considerate in a high de-

gree, his removal from office is nothing short of a calamity for the militia. I cannot let the opportunity pass of testifying to his public and private worth. Let us all hope that in the time to come he may once more be able to serve his country in the patriotic and earnest manner which has so far characterized his administration of the department.

Yours, &c.,

N. C. O.

Serviceable Equipment Wanted.

To the Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—I read with much interest the communication from Captain Wurtele, published in your issue of the 1st instant, urging that the militia be furnished at once with a serviceable valise equipment, and putting forward the claims which the invention of Mr. Patrick Lewis has upon the authorities.

Unfortunately, I have not seen this particular equipment so am not in a position to say anything of its merits or demerits, but whilst I thoroughly agree with Captain Wurtele that now if ever, "our force should be properly armed and equipped," I am firmly convinced that next to having the best rifle to be procured our men should be provided with the most serviceable equipment known, and that in this respect we should be cautious.

In the British army this is a subject which commands the most serious consideration, and we could not do better than profit by the experience which has been gained there after years of careful study of the subject.

The Slade-Wallace equipment was, without doubt, a great improvement upon anything that the British soldier had previously worn, but if your readers will refer to a communication published in the columns of your paper some months ago, they will notice that already there is a strong movement towards replacing this with what is known as the Oliver equipment. This latter I have seen, for it has been tested frequently in this garrison, and at present, I understand, is being tried under service conditions by the commanding officer of the Royal Berkshire regiment, with the idea of applying for it if it proves to be thoroughly satisfactory, as the regiment will require a new issue shortly.

One of our city corps, the 66th P. L. F., has applied to have the Oliver equipment issued to them, and I would not be surprised to find the other corps following suit.

I may say that I have no personal interest in the matter beyond desiring that in making the selection, a fair trial shall be accorded to each of these patents, the best to be adopted, but the test should be commenced at once.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

FRED H. ONLEY,

Major 1st Halifax Regiment C. A.

Canada's Duty.

Her Citizens Soldiers Should be Well Looked After.

To the Editor of CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE:

SIR,—The horizon of the Canadian volunteer has recently widened. He is no longer merely an aid to the civil power. He is recognized now as a factor in national preservation, in national life, and much is expected of him. In return he is justified in expecting much of his fellow-citizens, for whom he "takes his life in his hands," as the saying goes he has a right to expect sympathy and encouragement in times of peace as well as when danger comes. It is with a full

appreciation of the faithful services of previous commanding officers of our city battalion that Colonels Ponton, Campbell, Lazier and Henderson, and with a full recognition of how their arduous labors were lightened and those who served under them were strengthened, by public operation, that I bespeak that spirit of cheer and of good will (expressed and silent) that animated them in times past and kept them doing duty despite discouragement. But I desire to write of more than local affairs. The press of Canada has done its duty well during the past exciting weeks in giving printed prominence to all that appeals to manhood and British citizenship, and our city volunteers have to thank The Sun for much valuable information and military news; and also for fair and generous comments on their own drill and their endeavors not to disgrace their past commanders. We have also to thank The Sun for the publicity given to Capt. Muir's excellent series of lectures, which should be taken advantage of by all who have at heart the possibly necessary future defence of their homes. The military column of Saturday's Mail and Empire contains an excellent letter from a Belleville officer, and no one can read (in the same issue) the Flaneur's comments on our situation, and on what may come to us in any month, without being convinced that he is right. And there is but one answer to the question, "Are we ready?" and I regret to say it is a negative one, for in a military sense we are not ready. We have the same old spirit, we have the same just cause, we have more men and possibly more money, but, I speak not locally only, but of Canada as a whole, we have not sufficient efficient officers, we have not non-commissioned officers, we have not supplies or equipment for even a defensive campaign. Parliament and the people will surely now awake to the need of action, and, as a guarantee of peace, will not begrudge the militia department the necessary grants to make defence effective, and (should war be forced upon us) to save the loss of thousands of lives which would be sacrificed through the inefficiency of the brave young force which would have to bear the brunt and hold the frontier at all cost, against all odds, even a war to the death.

Patriotism will not avail, save, perhaps, in a bayonet charge; but hand-to-hand conflicts are rare in these days of modern weapons of distinct precision. Loyalty and determination to repel invaders or to die will not save life. Canada will expect every militiaman to do his duty, but there is the converse of this. The militia expects Canada to do her duty—by them, and to do it now. Willingly, then, will they assume the responsibilities of defence, and there will be a note of victory in the old response of their country's call, "Ready, aye ready!" What is wanted is not a spasmodic expenditure of energy and money, but a constant and practical and generous consideration of the needs of the force—not to encourage a military spirit, but to ensure stability, confidence, self-reliance and efficiency of organization, and to prevent our being accused of being, through our assailable weakness as a colony, a menace to the safety of the Empire, rather than a source of strength, which, if we are to retain our self-respect, we should be.

In a subsequent letter I hope, with your permission, to give some details (from the old order book of the XV. Battalion) of how Belleville soldiers answered the call in 1896. I will just note in closing that the first officer on regimental orderly duty on that occasion was Captain Bowell—now Sir Mackenzie Bowell—then, as now, to be found at his post living up to the motto on his crest: *Festis cadere non cedere potest.*

Yours, etc.,

W. N. PONTON.

Belleville, Jan. 11, 1896.