

WE OMITTED TO SAY that the "Instructions for encamping troops" published by us in the last number but one of the *Gazette*, were furnished to us by Captain McI. Moore, to whom we are again indebted for the "Instructions in Street fighting" published to day. We have a few words to say to our comrades of the Active force, and we shall say them shortly and simply, as a soldier ought to do.

The very best arms that money can buy, at this day, have been given to the Active force. It is quite obvious that the old sergeants of the line who have been employed to drill the Rifle Companies know no more of the use of the "Enfield Rifled Musquet," than they do of the "Differential Calculus." They never handled, or even saw, this splendid weapon, till it was put into the hands of the Volunteers. There is a book issued on "Musquetry Instructions" which has been supplied to all the Rifle Companies, at least we believe so. We have a copy, and have studied it carefully. We profess to have some acquaintance with the use of fire-arms—but we must certainly say that we have very little hope that the common run of non-commissioned officers, will of themselves, without further instruction, comprehend the mysteries of these "Instructions," issued "by authority." The thing is perfectly preposterous.

There is also the use of the sword, among the Cavalry and Artillery: this may be, and ought to be much simplified. Both in the Cavalry and Infantry sword exercise, there is much that in actual practice is worse than useless.

There ought to be attached to the Militia force an officer whose special duty it shall be to supervise the "Exercise of small arms;" it is of no use whatever to issue good arms, if men are not taught to use them properly. We do not attempt to show how this can be done; that would be presumptuous, although, we fancy that we could suggest a very effectual way. As to the person, we do not hesitate to say that Captain Moore, could he be spared from other duties, is the man of all others that we know of, in this Province, qualified to be an Instructor in small arm duty. Thoroughly acquainted with the nature and use of fire-arms, a first rate shot; understanding well the use of the sword, and we rather think that we ought to know something of that, having been at it for some thirty years, we know no man, as we said before, could be induced to take it, who would fill the office of Inspector in small arm drill, better than Captain Moore.

We hope that no one belonging to the Active Force will imagine that we say this because Captain Moore happens to be quartered in Ottawa, and that the writer is his personal friend. We are above any thing of the kind, and never allow personal inclination to interfere with our duty to the national service. Did we know any one better qualified we should speak of him.—As it is we speak of the best man that we do know. But it must occur to every man of common sense that such an officer is necessary. If this be granted, get the best man, and pay him liberally, though not extravagantly, and the result of the benefit of his instructions will be soon seen.

Our own opinion, of which more hereafter, is that we must have a regular musquetry school for our volunteers, in some central place—and that the Government must make up their minds to pay its expenses, if they really want the Volunteers to use their rifles properly.

THE REPORT OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL ON THE STATE OF THE MILITIA.

We published in our last all that portion of the Report of the Adjutant General, addressed to His Excellency the Governor General, which relates to the Active portion of the Canadian Militia, and we think that every one must candidly admit that considering the very short period during which the organization has lasted the result is most satisfactory, highly creditable to the Adjutant General himself, who has labored night and day, with equal zeal and ability to discharge the labors thus committed to him; and equally creditable to the officers of the different corps—

"Much has been done but more remains to do;"

Troops cannot be put into a high state of discipline and efficiency without the expenditure of money, and it is the duty of the Legislature of the Country to aid and encourage the zeal of the gallant men who have volunteered to learn the use of arms, should necessity compel a resort to armed force in defence of the country.

It was anything but just or liberal to take men from their occupations at a rate of ten dollars a year. The law certainly requires ten days drill only in each year, but for all practical purposes the law might just as well have said ten hours. Had not the volunteers turned out for repeated drills, besides those of the legal ten days, the Report of the Baron DeRottenburg would have presented no such picture as it does. Many Companies have been drilled night after night for weeks; there are few that do not turn out two or three times a week.

The Volunteers have clothed themselves. Being mostly respectable men, we are very happy to say, they do not care to wear clothing as citizen soldiers, of a worse description than that worn by them as simple citizens. We believe we are under the mark in saying that in no Company has the clothing cost less than twenty dollars a man, and in some much more, as in the Cavalry and Artillery. A certain sum of money should have been voted for the clothing, or what would have answered better, the Government should have imported and issued cloth. In addition to the cost of clothing, the volunteers will be called on from the pay of this year to hand over to the Government, seven shillings and ninepence for great coats, and about the same sum for knapsacks, and mess tins. The Imperial Government gave the great coats to the Province at half price. Would it be too much to ask the Legislature for a grant to aid the Volunteers in this small matter? If the Active force is worth anything, it should be properly supported; if not, let it be disbanded. It is all very well to be patriotic, but it is not well that the most useful class of men in the country should lose both time and money by their patriotism.

Many other things are required in order to make the troops effective. The Enfield Rifled Musquet with which the Troops are armed, is a weapon, the use of which is not very easily acquired. Schools have been established in England on purpose to teach its use, and Instructors qualified at those Schools are sent to each Regiment. In the book of "Instructions in Musquetry" published by authority, we find a list of articles required for practice, filling a page;—Targets, rests, measuring lines &c.—amounting

in value to a considerable sum. We do not say that it will be necessary to furnish each company with this apparatus, but we do say that where there are several Companies, as at Montreal, Quebec, Toronto and Hamilton, it should be so. Sticks and baskets, with wire masks, are necessary for the instruction of the Cavalry and Artillery in the sword exercise; the Cavalry ought also to have a few sham lances in each troop, as though all Cavalry do not use the lance, they all learn the exercise, as it is necessary that every swordsman shall know how to defend himself against a lancer, and the horses should be used to the fluttering of the little pennons which are attached to these formidable weapons.

Furthermore, if the Volunteer force are to learn anything beyond the simplest Company drill, they must be assembled in Battalions and Brigades. For this purpose Camp equipage is necessary.

We are well aware that everything cannot be done at once, but we should like to see a move in the right direction, indicating the inclination, on the part of the Legislature, to encourage those corps called into existence by themselves, were it only an allowance this year, to cover the cost of the great coats and knapsacks.

We are perfectly unaware of the intentions of the Government in the matter, and simply communicate our own opinions and those of other officers with whom we have conversed and corresponded.

THE ARMY LIST.—Our brother officers must not be annoyed if corrections in, and additions to, the List of the Active Force, are in some instances slightly delayed. The fact is that the Official Gazette does not reach us until after the *Military Gazette* is made up for the press.

We are obliged to COLONEL HORACE NELSON, commanding the New York State Militia, 32nd Regiment, for a copy of the Militia law of that State, and for the Report of two years proceedings of the "State of New York Military Association," which appears to be an Institution well calculated to encourage the Militia in acquiring a state of efficiency.

OURSTALS.—We must again call on our Brother Officers to forward their subscriptions, comparatively very few having yet done so. Only four of the papers sent out have been returned, therefore we conclude that the officers to whom the paper is addressed, intend to subscribe for it. Printers must eat, and paper must be paid for. Therefore we shall take it as a great obligation if our friends will think of us.

Payment can be made in Montreal to HILL and MARTIN—in Toronto, to Mr. CAMPBELL, King's Street—in Kingston to LIEUT. DUFF—in Hamilton to MASON BOOKER.

DRESS OF THE ARMY.—Before the commencement of the military year, the authorities will issue a new code of regulations for the dress of the Army. Several alterations are contemplated, and, among these, a uniform resembling that of the Zouaves will, we understand, be assigned to the men, though not to the officers, of the West India Regiments. The Gold Coast Corps, in consequence of its new organization, will receive clothing and appointments somewhat similar to those of the Royal Artillery.