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CORRESPONDENCE.

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COMMENT AND CRITICISM.

The annual report of the Department of Militia and Defence was laid before the House by Sir Adolphe Caron on Friday, but it has been impossible to secure a copy in time for extended notice in this issue. We may say briefly that it is merely the routine report and that the report of the field operations in connection with the rebellion will appear later as a supplementary report. This last week nothing of interest in militia matters has transpired in parliament.

Last week's general orders contain a number of important changes, and show the usual steady depletion of the ranks of our officers. Twelve have been promoted, five new names added, and twelve lost from the active force, leaving a balance to the bad of seven. Col. Massey is given command of the 6th Fusiliers, with his rank antedated to that of Col. Gardner's retirement, and his place is taken by Major Gray, who had been six years in command of a company. The 8th Royal Rifles lose their commander and remaining major, and are now left with four captains, none of them qualified for promotion. Captain White, well known as an enthusiastic rifle shot, retires from the adjutancy of the 34th, and the adjutants of the 20th and 66th, Major Kaitting and Major Curren, have received their brevet majorities. The remaining changes are in the ranks of company officers.

It is undoubtedly well that the rates of pay and allowances for staff and regimental officers in the field should be fixed, and it is probably wise that provision should be made for various offices not now in existence, but which might become necessary in the event of another campaign, but it is puzzling to account for the principle on which the scale is arranged, having in view the relative importance of the several positions in Canada. For instance, we find that an A.D.C. gets one cent a day more than a regimental lieutenant-colonel, and that the vets. are better off by 3 cents a day and a horse than the assistant surgeons. The medical department as a whole is well treated, the surgeon-general getting more than either adjutant, quartermaster, or brigadier-general, while a surgeon-major has a larger field allowance than a lieutenant-colonel. A surgeon, on the other hand, gets a less allowance than a major, and has to trudge afoot. Chaplains do not seem to be in much favor, their pay being fixed below that of paymasters, and these again are much better off than quartermasters, who have assuredly harder work to do.

A correspondent informs us that the Royal Scots are quite as much in earnest about going to England in their regimental capacity as any other corps in Canada possibly can be, and that if they obtain permission to go they are equally as willing as the Queen's Own to defray their expenses, without Government aid; moreover that they were the originators of the idea, having had the subject under discussion for over a year, and having forwarded their application for permission to the Major-General commanding some time ago. The Royal Scots would be a credit to the Dominion, their Province, and their headquarters, and we hope that nothing will arise to make the going of any of our crack corps, that desire to do so on the same terms, undesirable. Indeed there does not seem any possible objection to the scheme. A rumor is current that the Imperial Government are willing to furnish a troopship for the conveyance of those volunteers that decide, or rather are permitted, to undertake the expedition, and such a step would certainly be very popular here and do much to ensure a good representation, for it would lessen the expense to each individual by \$35 at the very least, and that for a thousand men would be no small saving.

The annual report of the Dominion Rifle Association was distributed yesterday and contains the usual information respecting the Association matches and the Wimbledon team, and, as both last year were more than ordinarily successful, the report is unusually interesting. We give in full in this issue the report of the Council, and hope at a future date to refer to Col. Ross's report of the Wimbledon team, and other matters of general interest to rifle shots.

One item included in the report should have special consideration before the annual meeting of the association. It is a suggestion that, in view of the fact that our Wimbledon team have to compete with