

It is to be hoped that the Canadian Government will join in the movement thus inaugurated; for Canada has to a certain extent already suffered from the operation of the existing laws, and probably will suffer more in the future. And we do not see that our national spirit need be hurt at the idea of employing experienced British officers. We can do a great deal, but we cannot make officers, who have had only a few months' training in a military school, equal in efficiency to those who have been in a regular army long enough to have earned retirement or half-pay. It does seem an anomaly that the home authorities should in effect say that their retired officers may loaf if they please, but may not help to increase the efficiency of the Colonial forces, which might be of value to the mother country in case of a general European war.

We were moved to enquire what facilities there were for the transport of our field artillery in winter by seeing the trouble a hook and ladder waggon had in turning out on wheels a few days ago, and have reached the conclusion that Canada would be in a "pretty tight place" if a necessity suddenly arose for our batteries to turn out. Here there are no sleighs, and in Quebec there are none serviceable, some of those previously provided being in the North-west, and any remaining being in a state of dilapidation. How it is at stations where the winters are less severe we can only guess, but it does seem desirable that steps should be at once taken to remedy what is such a manifest deficiency and source of weakness. The necessary work would be a great boon to mechanics this winter.

Colonel E. O. Hewett, R.E., C.M.G., who has been commandant of the Royal Military College at Kingston since its establishment in 1875, is about to resign that appointment on succeeding to the command of the Royal Engineers of the southern district, with headquarters at Portsmouth, England. It is not too much to say that the eminent success of the college is largely due to the administrative ability of Col. Hewett, who, by overcoming the difficulties inseparable from the inception of such an institution has greatly lightened the work of his successor, whoever that may be. While we shall lose much by his departure, we must be pleased that our loss is his gain, and wish him that success in his new and important duties, which his talents and experience will go far to ensure.

The Adjutant-General has started for California on three months' leave of absence. We should like to congratulate Col. Powell on his well-earned holiday, were it not that the trip was enforced by ill-health. Since the outbreak of the rebellion an immense amount of work has devolved upon him, and he has had a couple of attacks of erysipelas lately, and has consequently been prescribed change and rest. It is probable that Col. Powell will visit the Pacific Province before his return.

Mr. N. McEachren, of 191 Yonge street, Toronto, has issued a revised list of prices for the new year of a full line of outfittings for all ranks of infantry officers and non-commissioned officers, which we commend to the attention of any militiamen desiring such goods.

"If a body of troops is under fire, and so placed as to be unable to return it, the officer commanding should make it a rule to keep them constantly on the move, no matter if it is but two side steps to the right or one to the front, it always makes them believe they are doing something, and prevents the mind from brooding over a situation which is the most trying of any."—*Random Shots, &c.*, p. 274.

## REFLECTIONS ON UNIFORM.—II.

Having devoted a little reflection to uniform as a general subject, a few remarks now on the different uniforms of the Militia, and on the use and abuse of certain articles of uniform, may be in order; but while the writer is an advocate for strict regulations and scrupulous neatness for military men, let it not be understood that it is for parade and show only, but that soldiers—and in this word officers are particularly included—may be particular in their dress, and neatness and regularity will naturally follow in other matters; neither is the necessity for a "fighting uniform" lost sight of, but as it is necessary in the piping times of peace to have a showy and attractive dress, let it be shown by those who have the honor to wear the uniform of Her Majesty that there is a vast difference between a business suit of clothes and a regulation tunic, etc., but how many men there are who would be ashamed to wear a shabby or badly-made suit of clothes one day while the next they may be seen with worn and ill-fitting uniform. Now as to active service dress, if it may be taken for granted that we are to have one, how would homespun do for the material? It is worn by the country people, is strong, warm and wears well, and, while not of the same color as kharkee, is still of a shade to be very nearly invisible at a distance; but if this or anything else is adopted, let us still have our historic scarlet and blue for peace and parades, and so we can always point to the British uniform in Canada and thus enlist new blood into our force; otherwise there will be as loud a cry raised in Canada as there was in England and Scotland when a proposition was made to discard scarlet for gray and the Highlander's bonnet for the helmet.

Expense is generally the cry raised when an officer is urged to obtain a fit-out, and therefore it will be well if the authorities can see their way clear to cheapen the cost of uniform, without detracting from the appearance thereof, and the first arm which requires attention is the cavalry. The cost of uniform for this branch of the Militia is enormous, and when the price of horse furniture and saddlery is added, the amount is far beyond the means of those applying for commissions therein, and as most of our cavalry corps are from the rural districts, there seems the less necessity for such a very swagger dress. The artillery are next in order, and in the case of field batteries horse furniture also swells the amount—which officers of garrison corps have not to provide;—the expensive gold belts, and pouches of this branch as well as the dress sash, belts, etc., of the infantry might be done away with, as there are few occasions when it is necessary they should be worn. Officers of rifle battalions are the best off regarding expense as they have no gold or silver lace to tarnish or wear out, and if black patent leather belts are *full* dress for them, why not white ones for artillery and infantry?

The suggestion made some years ago by a committee on uniform that the Canadian Militia should have a distinguishing badge, such as a maple leaf on the collar, was a good one and it is hoped will be carried out. The Militia in Great Britain are distinguished by the letter M on the shoulder strap; but the uniform we wear is exactly the same as the British regulars if we except the pattern of lace and buttons, which are hardly noticeable. Some of us might not object to this, as we *might* be taken for officers of the regular forces, but those gentlemen would certainly be justified in objecting to an infringement of their dress.

The ignorance of many officers in regard to dress regulations is much to be regretted, but more so when those gentlemen are senior of their rank and perhaps commanding the corps. It is no uncommon thing for a new officer to apply for information regarding certain regulations in uniform to his captain or colonel and to be told "I really do not know what is right," and the consequence is, a garment is made to suit the fancy of the wearer, and no questions asked. It may seem absurd to suggest that a few questions on dress regulations should form part of the syllabus at the schools of instruction, but when we reflect how necessary it is to have a well-dressed body of officers and men, the knowledge would no doubt be as beneficial as to learn the length of pace or many of the sections of the Queen's Regulations. Even if a commanding officer does not dress well himself he can compel his officers to do so, and tell them, as a colonel of a crack regiment used to say—"By gad, sir, there shall be only one slovenly man in this regiment, and his name is \_\_\_\_\_" (naming himself).

In examining the different articles of uniform, the tunic comes first on the list and there are almost as many varieties as there are animals in some classes of natural history. We see laces of all patterns and all widths from  $\frac{3}{8}$ ths. to  $\frac{9}{8}$ ths. of an inch, and put on badly besides. Austrian knots on the sleeves and crows' feet on the cuffs, of all sizes. low, limp and badly-shaped collars, inferior cloth and wretched fit; it is quite an art to put the lace on properly, and very few outside of English tailors can undertake the task. There are nearly as many varieties of patrol jackets, and they include all shades of blue and even