

ornment of India has also decided in their favor. The colony of Victoria, New South Wales, has purchased 20 of the same guns and they were probably in addition called on to pay for carriages and platforms, an expense which we can avoid.

I trust the armaments for Quebec and Kingston may be authorized, and guns placed in position before next October.

There are 3, 17 inch rifled guns breech loaders, at Quebec, they are intended for the salients of the 3 Point Louis forts, to carry them across the river and mount them would cost about \$180. I suggest they be mounted.

I regret that the Board of survey on public buildings which sat a few days ago, has been obliged to report that with the exception of the Richmond bastion and the Forts at Lewis recently repaired, the fortifications, works and military buildings in Quebec City and District are rapidly going to destruction from want of attention and repair, and that unless immediate steps are taken to keep them in order the consequences will become serious. In addition there is much valuable property belonging to the Militia suffering from the same cause.

The Board recommends that one mason and one carpenter be attached to the Quebec Store Department, the Board further recommends the adoption of the suggestion in last year's annual report for the addition of a half company of Engineers to B. Battery to keep in repair these costly military work.

There are some hundred tons of obsolete old iron guns at Quebec and Kingston, I propose they be sold and the money applied to purchase modern armament. The price of old iron is about £4 a ton; there are likewise several smooth bore old bronze guns now obsolete, which if broken up would fetch about £50 per gun.

MILITARY STORES.

These are in their usual good condition under the careful supervision of Lieut. Col. Wily, an experienced and very painstaking officer. A considerable reserve of arms and ammunition as well as ordnance stores for the rifled guns in Western Ontario has this year been prudently added to the store at Toronto. A reserve of Camp Equipment has been likewise placed in depot there. The general reserve now in store throughout the Dominion is as follows:

Gunpowder.....	188,576 lbs.
Small arm ammunition....	6,902,163 rds.
Snider Rifles, long and short	19,820
Camp Equipment, or about	50,000 men

None regret more than myself that the Canadian Militia are not armed with the improved Martini Henry Rifle with which the British Army is now equipped, but as we have already some 80,000 stand of the Snider in Canada, it would not be possible under the sparing Militia vote to attempt a re armament. Several years would elapse before it could be accomplished, meantime we should labor under the dangerous defect of having arms of different patterns and two kinds of cartridges.

We may however feel satisfied that the Snider is a most efficient weapon whether for practice or for service, and perhaps on the whole better adapted for the rough handling it frequently undergoes from partially trained men, than would be the more delicately constructed Army Rifle.

CAVALRY.

I have not yet specially referred to this useful arm, the District reports enter into the condition of these Regiments during the

training. I include them when speaking of Militia generally. They turned out well this year, well mounted, horses without the advantage of a manege wonderfully steady; in the various field days the corps were well handled and some of them understood fairly the duties of outpost and feeling for an enemy.

One or two corps are desirous of being equipped as mounted Riflemen. I should be glad if this could be carried out on a considerable scale, because in this Country, mounted Riflemen who could move rapidly from point to point to take up positions would naturally be more useful than dragoons, owing to the wide sphere and the intricate, wooded character of the scene of any operations on active service. Several times applications have been preferred for an increase to the corps termed the Governor General's Body Guard at Toronto. These have failed hitherto, owing to the outlay for Cavalry equipments and from the fact that the quota in Ontario as everywhere, is all ready complete. I submit, however, it would be desirable to make an exception in this case even if the entire corps were not trained each year, the Body Guard is very popular, very efficient and the addition would give us the services of one of the foremost cavalry officers in the Dominion, Lieut. Colonel George Dension, who has made cavalry his study theoretically and practically, for a time in the field during the American civil war, and the author of an able book entitled "Modern Cavalry." A work which I believe has been translated into several European languages.

May I request special attention to a very practical letter and scheme for the improvement of Cavalry which has been addressed to me by Captain and Adjutant S. W. Spillette, late Troop Sergeant Major 9th Royal Lancers. As to the experience of this officer in Regimental detail, the position he held in the 9th is a guarantee. His remarks are worthy of consideration, especially the reasons which he gives for the necessity of a permanent staff officer in each Regiment, an opinion from which no practical soldier can dissent, although as I have before stated I believe the idea is not supposed to be generally acceptable here—and so I have refrained from again urging it. The letter will be found in the appendix No. 7.

Two Provincial Cavalry Inspectors are again recommended.

ENGINEERS.

There are but two companies in the whole Dominion. An application made by Lieut. Colonel Scoble, through Lieut. Colonel Gzowski last spring, for the creation of a company at Toronto was conditionally acceded to if the quota was not exceeded. The quota of men is complete, but I submit this company should be enrolled unconditionally as to quota, to the extent of 70 men, because engineers are difficult to obtain, must be skilled artificers and artizans and form an indispensable ingredient of every army corps. The names of the two well known officers I have mentioned ensure the efficiency of such a company.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S FOOT GUARDS.

As the annual inspection was made by yourself I need not allude to the battalion, beyond expressing that whenever I see them they perform the special duty for which they were raised in a manner reflecting credit on Lieut. Colonel Ross and his officers.

SALUTING BATTERY AT OTTAWA.

The want of a saluting Battery has been long felt in Ottawa. Frequently during the

year salutes are required, and notably at the state ceremonial of opening and closing the Houses of Parliament. This occurs at the most inclement period of a Canadian winter. Hitherto Captain Stewart's Field Battery has turned out efficiently to fire these salutes, and last year during a violent storm with some 70° of frost most of the men were frost bitten. I had arranged previous to my departure across the continent, for the construction of a platform battery on the north point of the promontory dominating the River and in rear of the Parliament Buildings, a commanding and picturesque site; the guns were placed there and remain, but not in position. I request authority to have this wooden platform completed when the snow melts off.

There would be a saving of expense as the cost would not exceed the amount paid in any year to the Field Battery for turning out on occasion, and salutes could be fired on the Queen's Birth Day, and on all usual occasions by turning out a dozen men of the Garrison Artillery.

Two Sevastopol trophy guns have never yet been mounted. They are now among the guns collected for the proposed saluting battery. I submit they be mounted in a prominent position in front of the Houses of Parliament in a manner similar to those at Toronto.

SCHOOLS OF GUNNERY.

I have left mention of these till the end hoping to see the reports of the commandants, Lieutenant Colonels Strange and Irwin, two officers of the Royal Artillery whose high professional education and practical experience have enabled them to devote their talents to the development of these valuable schools in whose interest they spare neither pains nor labor.

The good results produced by these two "A" and "B" batteries, through the various garrison and field batteries of the Country, are very marked: the presence in their ranks of volunteer officers, non commissioned officers and gunners who have received instruction in these schools is in the highest degree beneficial. These results were very apparent in the handling and drill of the various batteries I saw in the camps of exercise this season, there was no apparent hesitation, orders were understood and executed with promptness and precision, and positions taken up rapidly and with judgment.

The steadiness of the artillery horses was a remarkable feature. Even when the guns were in action they appeared as quiet as old artillery horses. The guns were in general well horsed.

The scanty attendance of officers for short course instruction is unfortunate, their hesitation to come forward may be attributable first to the costly mess uniform; second, being obliged to provide barrack furniture, third, the pay being limited to one dollar per diem, and fourth, the difficulty professional or commercial men find in sparing time.

It is suggested that, for such officers a serge jacket be substituted for the present expensive patrol jacket—and the optional use of tunic or mess jacket—that the store department should supply sufficient barrack furniture, in the quarters of "short course" officers and that their pay while attending the course be on the scale of their rank.

It is suggested that a branch school be recognized at St. Helen's Island, and that during the summer, classes of instruction under an officer from a school of Gunnery be formed at Ottawa, Toronto, or wherever required, to disseminate instruction among