

led by non-coms gives it a more serious aspect.

That the men really deserved punishment is a point all agree upon, but the major-general very properly took the surrounding circumstances into account and reduced the non-coms to the ranks, while to the privates a severe reprimand was given instead of giving them 84 days imprisonment, as recommended by the court martial. It is said that a new commandant is likely to be the outcome of this trouble.

The men convicted are: Corporal W. G. Daniels, of the 43rd Ottawa and Carleton Rifles; Corporal Duquette and Corporal L. E. J. Dubeau, of the 17th Battalion, Levis; Corporal W. Clark, of the 5th Royal Scots, Montreal; Private J. Touchette, 65th Mount Royal Rifles, Montreal; Private A. H. Simmonds, 54th Battalion, Richmond.

The court was composed of Lieut.-Col. Wilson, R.C.A.; Surgeon-Major Campbell, and Major Young, R.R.C.I.

SCARCITY OF CLOTHING.

It is said that even if the estimates were passed at once there is not enough clothing in store, or under order, to supply the corps who will go into camp this year.

One manufacturer has informed the Government that it will be utterly impossible for him to fill their orders for clothing in time for the June camps, and it would take all summer to make ready for September camps, if he could have them ready even then. There is just a possibility, therefore, of some regiments not being able to go into camp at all, or, if they do, it will be with a civilian coat and military trousers or a red coat and civilian trousers. Most corps are short on overcoats, and it is said there are very few in store or under order. Many regiments have not had a supply for years, and, when preparations for the camps begin, it will be impossible to get them. It is pleasant to look forward to the cool September nights under canvas without greatcoats. What can we expect, however, from a Government or a Parliament composed of so many ward politicians and office-seekers as we have now representing us at Ottawa? We must send business men and statesmen in their place. There are many good men in the rank and file of both parties, but they are kept in the background by the ward-healers.

Men are seeking election now not to serve their country but to get offices before their term expires. A Conservative member, who is thoroughly dissatisfied with the way things are run, says that he knows of 33 members of the present Parliament who are endeavoring to get appointments.

If the military men join the business men, as they have done on one or two occasions, we can force both parties to nominate good men.

DISAGREEMENTS IN THE ROYAL SCOTS.

MATTERS are not running smoothly in the 5th Royal Scots, Montreal. Troubles have been smouldering for some time. Recent occurrences brought them to a climax. To make things worse the newspapers have published some very unkind stories. The real cause of the trouble seems to be a difference of opinion as to how the internal affairs of a regiment should be conducted. Lieut.-Col. Strathy believes that a C.O. should deal with every question strictly in the way in which the R. & O. provide without reference to his officers. Many of the latter think that while these may apply when a regiment is actively employed and in receipt of full pay and clothing from the Government, they do not when officers not only contribute their pay but fees as well to enable them to successfully carry on the affairs of the regiment.

Recently Col. Strathy did not receive certain reports and returns as promptly as he wished. He wrote to several officers asking for them, and directly their attention to the paragraphs in the R. & O. which provided a penalty for non-compliance. Major Ibbotson, who felt that such a notice was intended as a direct reflection on himself, resigned. When this became known, several officers who sympathized with him sent in their resignation, together with the others who thought the letters they received reflected on their honor. The C. O. informed the latter that he had no intention of doing so, but he wished to carry out the regulations. He called a meeting of the officers at the ante-room last week for a friendly talk and to ask those who wished to resign not to do so. The gathering failed to mend matters. The efforts of some Scotch friends of the regiment were also unsuccessful.

There seems to be no immediate prospect of a settlement. The interests of the

regiment we fear will suffer, and at a time when prospects are unusually bright. There is some talk of an official enquiry. It would be much better for all if they would agree to the appointment of, say, three officers to consider the situation, and, no matter what their suggestions may be, to carry them out conscientiously. These officers should have a thorough knowledge of how affairs of a city regiment have been best conducted.

A CHANGE OF FRONT.

IN going over the old records of 1870 relating to Canadian defences, THE GAZETTE is struck by the different spirit then animating the Imperial Government to what we know animates it now. The withdrawal of British troops from Canada, for instance, was arranged without much regard to Canadian feeling. The official correspondence is civil, but not much more.

In April, 1869—three years after the first Fenian invasion and just a year before the second—we find Lord Granville, Colonial Secretary in Mr. Gladstone's Ministry, writing to the Governor-General, announcing the reduction of the forces here, and remarking:

"Her Majesty's Government trust that the annoyance arising from the organization of Fenianism in the United States is fast disappearing. This organization, founded on the hostile feelings entertained by numerous Irishmen in the United States against Great Britain, derived its substantial importance from the circumstance that large armies had been recently disbanded and were not yet thoroughly absorbed in the pursuits of peace. Such a state of things must always contain certain elements of danger to a neighboring country, and so far as the Canadians suffer from it, they suffer not so much from their connection with Great Britain, as from an unhappy,—I hope, a passing—accident of their geographical position."

This despatch was laid before the Canadian Parliament in June, 1869. We can just imagine the way it would impress Canadian public men who had, a few years before, made some sacrifices to unite the British dominions in North America into one compact state attached to the Empire. Its sense or sagacity is not very evident, in view of later events.

The correspondence, all through, is strictly business in tone. This is right enough in one way, but in a colony which had just suffered invasion, loss of life and immense destruction of property, entirely because it was a British country and allied to England, the feeling produced would be one of disappointment. The Imperial Government were careful to stipulate exactly what Canada was to do. Every detail was provided for as to arms, fortifications and general military organization.