

reason why the regular annual grant to the artillery should not be augmented, if the situation were represented to Parliament in the proper light by some members interested in the artillery.

AN official of the balloon department of the Imperial army, Major Templar, has been arrested for selling to a Birmingham firm secrets of the military ballooning system, the most important being the method of inflating and the manner of transporting gas for that service. The offender is a supernumerary major in a militia battalion. He was attached to the Engineers some years ago as a ballooning expert. It is a pity that, if the charge against him be well founded, he has cancelled the value of his services to the government by bartering secrets of the service in response to the temptation of "filthy lucre."

DRILL instruction money, as has often been pointed out, is continually being put to uses it was certainly not intended for when voted by Parliament. It would be interesting though perhaps an impossibility, if a statement were prepared showing just what has been done with the grant paid to each corps last year. We are convinced that such a statement would make it quite plain that some more stringent regulations should be devised governing the disposition to be made of the grant. We invite suggestions on the subject from our readers.

A BRITISH officer of high rank thus expressed himself recently on the subject of the possibility of trouble between Austro-Germany and Russia: "The Czar," he said, "lives in a kind of fool's paradise. He is not a soldier, although he commanded an army in the field. He is all but ignorant of the character of the Imperial forces, notwithstanding that he is Emperor, and their titular head. The Russian Army is without scientific equipment or organization, and it is practically without a general competent to direct its operations in a great war." Proceeding, the gallant critic said, "I do not believe there will be a war of the kind which is frightening the Bourses, and bewildering Lord Salisbury. But if it came we might well rejoice. Russia would be worsted, her armies shattered and her limits strangely converted to her disadvantage. Poland and Bulgaria would be torn from her influence; for the first time for centuries almost there would be no Eastern Question, with the Sultan quaking in his slippers; and finally, and of most interest to us in England, there would come an end, certainly for a generation—perhaps for ever—to the periodical scare over the Afghan frontier and invasion by Russia."

British Columbia Rifle Association.

Transactions at the Annual Business Meeting.—List of Office Bearers.

(From the Victoria Times.)

A LARGE and enthusiastic meeting, composed of members of C Battery, the active militia and civilians, was held at the rooms of the Y.M.C.A. on Monday, 23rd January, the occasion being the adjourned annual meeting of the subscribers to the B. C. Rifle Association. The President, Mr. E. C. Baker, M.P., presided. A brief outline of the affairs and doings of the association for the past year was read by the Secretary, after which the Treasurer submitted the financial statement of the receipts and expenditure for general purposes and on account of the Ottawa team, showing a satisfactory balance on hand with which to begin the operations of the new year.

Several resolutions were adopted by those present, the most important emphasizing the desirability of again sending a team under the auspices of the association, to represent the province at the next meeting of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association. This resolution was strongly supported, and every effort will be made towards the object in view. The cordial thanks of the association were also directed to be communicated to Lieut. Lang, R.E., for the very satisfactory services rendered by him as range officer at the last annual prize meeting. It was decided to continue the use of the present rifle range at Clover Point for another year, and a committee was appointed to report on range matters generally, as well as to prepare arrangements for the introduction of a new system of targets and marking.

The following council was elected to carry on the affairs of the association for the present year: Mr. E. C. Baker, M.P., Lieut.-Col. Wolfenden, Major Peters, C Battery, Major Prior, M.P., Capt. Jones, District Paymaster, Capts. Fletcher, Dorman, Scoullar, Bole and Woollacott, Lieut. P. Æ. Irving, Sergts. Winsby, Williams and Roper, and Messrs. Beckwith and A. Langley. Major Prior, M.P., and Hon. J. A. Mara, M.P., Kamloops, were elected to represent the association at the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association.

The question of the affiliation of local rifle associations in this military district with the Provincial Association was taken up and will be considered by the new council. The use of the long Snider rifle at the annual prize meetings was also the subject of some discussion, but no definite conclusion was arrived at.

After a few appropriate remarks from the Chairman the meeting adjourned.

A meeting of the newly elected council was then held, when the following office bearers were elected: President, Mr. E. C. Baker, M.P., re-elected; vice-presidents, Lieut.-Col. Wolfenden, re-elected, and Capt. Bole, M.P.P., of New Westminster; secretary, Capt. Fletcher, re-elected; treasurer, Capt. Dorman, re-elected; auditor, Capt. Shears.

It was unanimously resolved that His Honour the Lieut.-Governor be asked to be patron of the association, and the following vice-patrons: Hon. R. Dunsmuir, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Lieut.-Col. Baker, Kootenay; the Mayor of Victoria and R. P. Rithet, Esq.

The Revised Infantry Sword Exercise.

IN view of the general order recently issued directing that in future officers of all infantry regiments will carry their swords in the same manner as laid down for cavalry officers, we have been requested to publish the new detail in the MILITIA GAZETTE. It is as follows:—

Draw Swords.—Take hold of the scabbard of the sword, with the left hand below the hilt, which should be raised as high as the hip, then bring the right hand smartly across the body, grasping the hilt, and turning it at the same time to the rear, raise the hand the height of the elbow, the arm being close to the body.

Two.—Draw the sword from the scabbard, the edge being to the rear, and lower the hand until the upper part of the hilt is opposite the mouth, the blade perpendicular, edge to the left, elbow close to the body, which forms the position of "recover swords."

Three.—Bring the hand smartly down until the hand is in front of the elbow and little finger in line with it, the elbow close to the body, blade perpendicular, edge to the front, which forms the position of "carry swords"; the left hand resumes the position of "attention" directly the sword is drawn.

Slope Swords.—Relax the grasp of the last three fingers, and, without disturbing the position of the hand, allow the back of the sword to fall lightly on the shoulder, midway between the neck and point of the shoulder.

Stand at Ease.—Keeping the sword at the "slope" draw back the right foot six inches and bend the left knee.

Return Swords.—Carry the hilt to the hollow of the left shoulder (the left hand as before raising the scabbard) with the blade perpendicular, and the back of the hand to the front, then by a quick turn of the wrist drop the point into the scabbard, turning the edge to the rear until the hand and elbow are in line with each other square across the body.

On the march (except when on the passing line in marching past) or when manœuvring, the sword is to be at the "slope" both on foot and mounted. When the sword is at the "carry" mounted, the position is with the hilt resting on the right thigh, the blade perpendicular, the wrist rounded so as to incline the edge slightly to the left, the grasp of the lower fingers slightly relaxed, the little finger in rear of the hilt.

Military Equipment.

(Admiralty and Horse Guards Gazette.)

IN our recent remarks upon military dress the conclusion at which we arrived was that it was impossible to reconcile the hopelessly conflicting conditions of parade or dress and utility for campaigning. As regards the soldier's equipment, the question is even more difficult and complicated. The old knapsack, with its arm-cutting straps and chest-impeding pressure, has long passed away from us, though it still survives on the Continent. It has given place to the valise, which latter is announced to be far from perfect, and other patterns are proposed, brought forward for trial, and there remain. The fact is that the whole question is in a transition state, and is likely to remain so for some time.

A much broader issue is to be decided than that of merely which form of equipment is the best, and that is whether the soldier will be