

Complaints have reached us from several points, but especially Montreal and Quebec, respecting the quality of the Snider ball ammunition now being manufactured by the Dominion Government at Quebec. This is a serious matter, involving, as it does, the success of our militia, both in friendly contests and in the far more responsible business of actual service and, consequently, deserves the most stringent investigation and remedy if the accusations prove well founded. We cannot, however, understand why there should be any such inferiority in our home made ammunition. The cartridges appear to be equally as well made as the British Government issue, and the bullets are beautifully smooth and clean. Indeed if there is any difference, it is in favor of the appearance of the D.C. ammunition. We are not aware what course is now pursued, but when the factory was first started all the materials, including Waltham Abbey powder, were imported from the English manufactories to make these cartridges and it seems difficult to understand wherein they could fail. We shall be glad to hear from other points the experience of shots, whether favorable or otherwise, with this ammunition and, in the meantime, shall make further enquiries as to any possible causes of inferiority.

The Wimbledon team has been here, has had five days' practice, and has sailed for England according to programme, but it has gone in command of Col. Ross instead of Col. Landry, as at first intended. Under the control of either of these gentlemen its interests would have been equally well attended to, and as Col. Landry has been prevented from going at the last moment, through an unfortunate illness in his family, the country is to be congratulated on having secured the services of the veteran chairman of the D. R. A. Executive Committee in his place. In our last issue appeared the results of the first day's practice, which showed very inferior shooting, scores that would be low with the Snider being the rule. The remainder of the shooting appears in this issue, and shows a decided improvement, though still below the English average. As a matter of fact the Canadian team is handicapped by having to practice with both rifles, and the sooner the D. R. A. is put upon a Martini footing the sooner Canada will come to the front under the new conditions at Wimbledon. There is no doubt that some of the twenty will give a good account of themselves in spite of these disadvantages, as they have in years gone by, and to the whole team the MILITIA GAZETTE, in common with all Canadian shots, wishes a pleasant trip and the best of good fortune.

THE WEEKS' MOVEMENTS OF CORPS ON ACTUAL SERVICE.

During the past week General Middleton has decided to at once arrange for the return of the expedition and has been collecting the various battalions into one district in order to facilitate their transport, so that when a move homeward is made vexatious delays will not be the order of the day. Strange's column is being brought in from Beaver River to Fort Pitt, eighty teams having been sent for that purpose, and all will be in readiness for a start upon their arrival. The route home will be by steamer via Saskatchewan to Grand Rapids and thence through Lake Winnipeg.

Word is expected daily from Cols. Otter and Irvine who may have had something to say to Big Bear, though that chiefs whereabouts are not so much a matter of importance now that he is minus his prisoners, still it would be a gratifying finale to the rebellion to have a deal with so notable a warrior, and not to leave him under the impression that he has eluded his pursuers and is therefore master of the situation. Should he be met we feel satisfied he will be well handled for all the trouble he has given our troops, who must indeed be exasperated. There will be left to garrison strategical points, the Toronto Infantry School corps, under

Col. Otter, and the two batteries of artillery ("A" and "B"). These will co-operate with the Mounted Police force, now to be raised to 1,000, and distributed in detachments throughout the disaffected district. Such a force will no doubt be equal to any emergency that may arise among the restless redskins. No change in the disposition of the troops has been made on the line of railway, and Regina, with its notable prisoner, is still protected by the Montreal Garrison Artillery.

IN THE HOUSE.

During the past week militia matters have occupied a due share of the time of the House, but discussion thereon has been somewhat tame and confined merely to a few questions and answers between the leaders. This is owing, no doubt, not to a lack of interest in militia affairs, which are rather in the ascendant just now in the public mind, but to an evident desire on the part of parliamentarians to shorten discussion as much as possible in order to make up for lost time. On the 22nd inst., in answer to Sir Richard Cartwright, who took the opportunity, when the subject of the pensions for 1812 was being discussed, to ask what the intentions of the Government were in regard to similar grants for those widows and orphans of our volunteers who fell in the Riel rebellion, Sir John Macdonald informed the House that the subject was now engaging the attention of the Government, and intimated that at all events such pensions would be on as liberal a scale as were those of 1812. He also acknowledged the necessity that existed for showing some mark of public regard to our brave defenders from the gallant General downwards.

On motion for the second reading of the Mounted Police Augmentation Bill, Sir John Macdonald remarked that though the force would be doubled in number, yet the cost of its maintenance would not be in that proportion, owing to the fact that the cost of supplies was coming down, due in part to greater competition in the contracts, and also, that as time goes on, the means of communication are improving.

The bill providing that when acting with the militia in times of disturbance, the Mounted Police shall be subject to the provisions of the Militia Act, was read a third time and passed through committee. This bill has been rendered necessary, as experience recently has shown that some difficulties would in all probability arise, should such a law not be on the statute book, in the matter of conflicting authority. The last stage of these two bills was reached on the 24th, when they passed their third reading without discussion.

On the 25th a bill to amend the Consolidated Militia Act was introduced by Hon. Mr. Caron. The object of this amendment to the bill is to give the Government the necessary authority to increase the permanent corps to 1,000 from 750, as it now stands. Under this Act a School of Infantry will be established at London, Ont., where there is excellent barrack accommodation, owing to the fact that the English government had a garrison established there for the regular troops, prior to their withdrawal from the Dominion. Another corps will also be established in Winnipeg, consisting of half mounted and half ordinary infantry. This supplement to our permanent corps is considered necessary by the government in the light of recent events, which have proved so conclusively the value of such organizations. The bill was read a first time.

In reply to Mr. Royal, Sir John Macdonald stated that the government was considering the question of furnishing assistance to the settlers who had suffered loss in so many ways from the recent rebellion; and in reply to Mr. Ross, the Hon. Mr. Caron said that the Government certainly intended compensating the members of the 90th Battalion for all necessary and legitimate expenditure incurred by them in equipping and clothing themselves, prior to their departure for the front.

The second reading of the bill for granting \$1,700,000 to defray the expenses of the North-West rebellion, then came on for discussion, during which Mr. Caron stated that up to the 23rd inst., there had been expended \$1,644,262, the items *en bloc* being given.

In reply to Mr. Blake, Mr. Caron said that the \$50,000 for the purchase of the 10,000 stand of arms in England, was not included in the above statement. Mr. Blake made further inquiries as to the total cost of the war, but Mr. Caron, in reply, admitted that it was impossible to form even an approximate estimate as yet, as a great many of the vouchers had not been received by the Department, e. g., from that branch of the expedition under Gen. Strange, no vouchers at all had been received. It was also brought out during the same debate that it was the General's intention to reduce the force to the lowest possible point compatible with safety. The Toronto Infantry School corps and the two Batteries of Artillery will probably be the only corps left. The bill passed its third reading on the 26th.