

reluctance of the officers to attend the schools, after receiving their provisional appointments without qualifying. Lieut.-Col. Maunsell notes that increased attention to target practice is necessary, and he places on record the fact that one of the captains in his district is over age. Lieut.-Col. Worsley says several of his captains have likewise passed the age of usefulness in that rank. Lieut.-Col. Villiers calls for new rifles and accoutrements to replace the useless outfit on his hands; and Lieut.-Col. Holmes asks accommodation and equipment for his British Columbia forces.

The Musketry Instructors are unanimous in declaring that more practice with the rifle is necessary to make the men reasonably efficient; with the exception of Lieut.-Col. Irving, who says of the Prince Edward Islanders that "the men are nearly all good practical shots." Several recommend an issue of ammunition to each corps every year, whether or not the corps is called upon to drill; and the offer of prizes by the Government for proficiency shown in the class firing is strongly urged.

To Col. Bergin, M.P., Surgeon General, we particularly commend the report of the Principal Medical Officers of the various camps, as a word from him in Parliament would be very useful. They join in lamenting that their medical chests are very ill supplied with even the most necessary articles. They are almost unanimous in asking the issue of two blankets and a rubber sheet per man, in place of the single blanket now served out. They call attention to the fact that at many of the camps there were no stretchers or other ambulance appliances, and they request that steps be taken to supply these most necessary articles. One Surgeon Major remarks upon the miserable physique of the men brought to camp, says he would have rejected a very large proportion of them, and express his opinion that local influence must have prevailed over the regimental surgeons to make it possible that these poor subjects should have been brought out.

The usual reports of the commandants of the schools are appended; and there is likewise a more than usually interesting statement from the commandant of the Royal Military College. The contents of these will be noted in a later issue; and we will as space permits give our readers the benefit of much more food for reflection contained in the departmental blue-book for 1889.

Our esteemed contemporary the *Halifax Critic* invites our attention anew to the grievance felt by some of the D.A.G.'s that rank superior to theirs has been awarded the Deputy Minister of Militia and the Surgeon General, while every effort to have the D.A.G.'s put a grade higher than regimental commanding officers has failed. The remedy suggested is, of course, that the officer commanding each district should be a full Colonel. The matter is one well worth consideration, and in this instance, happily, no financial difficulty intervenes to postpone consideration indefinitely.

The joke of the season has been perpetrated by a Montreal paper, which after publishing a series of "interviews" with local officers, designed to show that Canada's militia is "in a thoroughly demoralized condition," completes its task by publishing an article which it states *appeared in a Chicago paper ten years ago!* It speaks well for the militia force when its critics have to quote from a foreign paper of ten years ago to support their false allegation of "thorough demoralization."

Objection having been made on behalf of several rural corps who propose entering teams for the Canadian Military Rifle League "simultaneous" competitions, that Saturday is a most inconvenient day for their shooting, it is suggested that such corps as desire to do so should be allowed to shoot on Thursdays instead. Those interested are invited to communicate their views on the subject to the Secretary, Mr. W. R. Pringle, 63 Front Street West, Toronto.

In the last Militia General Orders it is prescribed that Senator Boulton shall for the future have the rank of Lieutenant Colonel (brevet) in place of that of Major, it having been discovered that he was entitled to the superior rank upon his retiring from the 46th Battalion in 1881.

## Dominion Artillery Association.

The annual meeting of the Dominion Artillery Association was held on Thursday last, 6th inst., at 2 p.m., in the railway committee room of the House of Commons. There were present Lieut.-Col. Macdonald, 1st B.F.A., president of the association, in the chair; His Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Stanley of Preston, and Capt. Colville, A.D.C.; Lieut.-General Sir Fred. Middleton, Col. Walker Powell, Adjutant-General; Col. C. E. Panet, Deputy Minister of Militia; Lieut.-Col. de la C. T. Irwin, Inspector of Artillery; Lieut.-Col. Stevenson, Montreal Field Battery; Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, Montreal Garrison Artillery; Lieut.-Col. Prior, M.P., British Columbia Garrison Artillery; Lieut.-Col. Smith, 14th Bn.; Lieut.-Col. Otter, D.A.G., Toronto; Lieut.-Col. Dawson, 10th R.G., Toronto; Lieut.-Col. Kirkpatrick, M.P., 47th Bn.; Major Drennan, Kingston F. B.; Major Van Wagner, Hamilton F. B.; Major King, Welland F. B.; Major Stewart, Major Woodburn, Surgeon Bell, Asst. Surgeon Harris, Capt. Bliss, Lieut. Hurdman, Ottawa F. B.; Lieut. Irving, Toronto; Lieut. Magor, Montreal; Messrs. R. Myles, T. W. Jones, J. Innes, M.P., Dr. Ferguson, M.P., Welland, Wm. Mulock, M.P., Capt. J. B. Donaldson (secretary) and others.

On motion of Lt.-Col. Turnbull, seconded by Lt.-Col. Stevenson, the thanks of the association were tendered to the Governor-General for the interest he had shown in its affairs.

Lord Stanley in reply said that he was himself an eye-witness last year of some part of the work of the association. So far as he could give an opinion, the work done was extremely satisfactory, and the gun practice he saw was smart, active and intelligent. He hoped that the Minister of Defence, who was not present, would forgive him when he said that the only deficiency he observed was that the men had not better guns. After alluding to the importance of better ordnance, he said he did not think it was expected that a country in Canada's position should possess the latest improvement in guns, but he ventured to indicate last year that there appeared to him to be a means by which the Dominion gunners might keep up with the improvements in artillery without incurring more expense for the purchase of guns. He was sure that if the Imperial authorities were approached the guns which were mounted for Imperial defence at Halifax could be utilized. He thought Sir John Ross would co-operate to enable gun detachments to obtain the best means of instruction with the most improved ordnance on the northern continent. He had been told that to a certain extent this instruction had been availed of by the Halifax artillery, but he was sorry detachments from other cities had not been sent, the difficulty being only one of travelling expenses. He had only to hope that this association would not relax any of its efforts in aid of artillery science. He was sure that an association such as this, representing the feeling of artillery officers in all parts of the Dominion, was able to do very much good in the permanent defence of the country. He hoped the authorities would give due consideration to representations proceeding from this organization, and that in the time to come as in the past they would receive from the Government that assistance which they had a right to look for. He might say that whether in an individual or public capacity, he trusted they would find him ready to do his utmost for the association. (Applause.)

### THE YEAR'S WORK REVIEWED.

Lieut.-Col. Macdonald in moving the adoption of the annual report, said the central competitions of the past year has been of exceptional advantage to the association; but he advocated the holding of a camp for the field artillery as well as for the garrison, as only by that plan could uniformity be secured in the shooting conditions and a fair test be made of their relative merits. The past year it had happened at the central competition at Kingston that some detachments shot on very fine days, but others had weather quite the reverse. It had been suggested that a team should be sent to Shoeburyness this year, and the subject deserved serious consideration. Were such a team sent, however, there would probably not be funds for the Orleans competition, so choice had to be made between the two.

Lieut.-Col. Irwin said an important feature of the season's practice, dealt with in the report, was the inauguration of range finding practice as laid down for the Royal Artillery. Very good results had been achieved this season. He was happy to be able to say that a number of improved sights had been secured. As to the driving competitions, there had been a marked development of these since he had instituted them, in a very crude form, in A Battery thirteen years ago, and they had now become very popular. As to the instructional targets mentioned in the report, the expense of providing these at local headquarters would be borne by the association. It had been decided to adopt the Royal Artillery manual of artillery instruction, as the Canadian manual was now out of print.

### A POINT OF PROCEDURE.

In amendment to the motion to adopt the report, Mr. L. H. Irving moved, seconded by Major King, that inasmuch as no terms had been