

the new regulation forage caps, as worn by the imperial infantry, for the use of his corps. They are of the latest pattern, and look serviceable and natty. What about the Government replacing the present unsightly red-banded article worn by our infantry by getting a supply of the new pattern. They are model forage caps for this country, as one moment of time converts them into either a night-cap for camp use, or a winter cap for severe weather. The price is about the same as the red-banded article.

Your suggestions for overcoming the difficulties in connection with the "Growing Grey in the Service" trouble are good ones, and in my opinion must sooner or later be adopted. Why cannot the powers that be reward a commanding officer's past services by giving him a step in rank on retirement, and either adopt your plan and make him a brigadier or honorary colonel of his corps? It is the least that should be done for those officers who have by their exertions, influence (without the latter he's not in it), time and money maintained their corps for a number of years. I am sure the staff officers would not object to see an efficient lieutenant-colonel promoted above him in our Militia List; and, by the way, why not make the A.A. General and Inspectors of Artillery, as well as the D. Q. M. G. and all the D. A. G.'s, full colonels. There's the whole difficulty removed by one stroke of the Minister's pen, backed up, of course, with what I am sure would be the willing sanction of Parliament. I suppose it is unnecessary to inform my readers that I am not a commanding officer, nor am I an officer at all—just one in the ranks who is anxious to see the Canadian militia raised to the highest standard of efficiency.

Capt. J. C. Thorp, Royal Artillery, has been appointed a second-class inspector of warlike stores at Halifax, N.S., and will be held in readiness to embark so as to reach Halifax about the 1st May next.

Lieut.-Col. A. W. Collard, who has been selected to succeed Lieut.-Col. T. P. Shannon, as Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General at Halifax, formerly commanded the Army Service Corps at Woolwich.

Six 6-inch quick-firing guns are now en route from Halifax to Victoria to be mounted on one of the forts at Esquimalt, which is nearly completed.

General Sir John Ross, G.C.B., formerly commander of Her Majesty's forces here, will be placed on the retired list on the 18th of the present month, for age disqualification.

GRAVELCRUSHER.

A WORD OF PRAISE FOR THE GAZETTE.

ST. JOHN, April 2—The appearance of THE CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE in its new dress and under new management has been favorably commented on by

the militia of the city, but what delights us the more is the firm and independent stand taken by that paper in the interests of the force, without respect to politics or any other matter, which, in the past, has been allowed to overshadow the wants and claims of the militia. Go on in the good work; show up the weak points; lay bare old sores; expose the needs of Canada's citizen soldiers; send a marked copy of the paper to the General and every member of the Government.

Perhaps we have some cause of complaint in this ancient city of St. John, the winter port of Canada—for this winter anyway. We have no drill here in the winter months. Why? Because the drill shed, besides being miles away from the residences of most militiamen, has no means of being heated and no gas, because the pipes are frozen nearly every winter. Why, even in the summer there is no light in the upper rooms, because an expenditure of about \$20 is necessary for repairs, which amount the Department at Ottawa has been considering about two years. This is encouraging the militia.

We would like to hear something very soon about that missing four days' drill pay withheld last year. Drill will soon be started, but if the Government paid the men for only eight days last year, what guarantee have we that they will grant twelve days, or any pay, this year? The amount was promised last season by members of the Government on a supplementary or special vote, and such promises, conveyed by commanding officers to their men, give the latter much cause for grumbling if not fulfilled.

Annual meetings as follows have been held during the past week. First, the 62nd St. John Fusiliers, when the following committees were elected:

Band—Lieuts. Dunning and McMichael and 2nd Lieut. W. C. Rankine.

Bugle Band—Major Sturdee and Lieuts. Kaye and Sharpe.

Finance and Regimental—Major Magee, Assistant Surgeon MacLaren and Lieut. Miles.

Mess and Rooms—Major Magee, Capt. Churchill, Lieuts. Sharpe and Miles.

Major Edwards, who has been president of the Band Committee for a number of years, declined re-election, whereupon a vote of thanks for his long and efficient services was tendered him, and conveyed by Lieut.-Col. Tucker. All committee reports were satisfactory, and, as usual, the officers' drill pay voted to the regimental fund. After some discussion on the affairs of the corps the meeting terminated.

A few days later the annual meeting of the officers of the 3rd New Brunswick Regiment Canadian Artillery was held at the

residence of Major Jones, Lieut.-Col. Armstrong presiding, nearly all the officers being present. The accounts of the Regimental and Band Committees were submitted, showing a balance on hand for both services.

The following officers were elected to the two committees:

Regimental Committee—Surgeon Daniel, Major Jones and Capt. Baxter.

Band Committee—Capt. Crawford, Capt. Temple and Lieut. Foster.

Capt. Baxter laid on the table a history of the corps, on which he had expended much time during the past five years. This history, both for its literary excellence and for its mechanical completeness, elicited expressions of the greatest satisfaction from all present, and the following resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote:

Resolved, that the warmest thanks of the officers of the corps be tendered to Capt. J. B. M. Baxter for the compilation of the Historical Records of the New Brunswick Canadian Artillery, his efforts having resulted in the production of a work of value to the corps itself as well as of local historic importance.

It was unanimously decided that the book should not be sold, but distributed only according to the wishes of the corps.

It was also decided that although the book was copyrighted by the corps, its author should have all the rights of the copyright holder.

A regimental die was ordered and device for ribbon. A number of books were ordered to be added to the regimental library.

The officers as usual voted their drill pay to regimental purposes.

Your Hamilton correspondent makes a strong point regarding accoutrements: What is the use of arming our men with new rifles while they have no means of carrying ammunition? Give us new equipment by all means, but let the belts be brown leather. These are more easily kept clean, and save all the trouble and money over pipe clay. What a boon brown gloves are to officers, and how odd they looked at first, but now we are all used to them, and so we would soon be to brown accoutrements.

I notice that Montreal and Kingston have branch infantry schools, and one of these from the School at Fredericton would do much good in St. John, not only for new officers, but for old ones who wish to brush up, and would give non. coms. a chance also to take a course. It is hoped this can be arranged next winter.

What about the Long Service medal? Why can't we get it? The remarks of your Montreal correspondent on this head are to the point. Wake up the powers that be, Mr. GAZETTE. THOMAS ATKINS.