

of rank on shoulder straps. A tunic is merely an ornamental garment, and is no more suitable for route-marching or field-work than a frock-coat is for a walking tour or grouse shooting. Officers are permitted to have a serge tunic, but as the same quantity of lace is required to be worn on it as a cloth one, but little expense is saved, leaving out of consideration the utter unsuitability of its shape for active work. A practicable field-dress for officers is much required, and none being sanctioned at home, the result is that when a battalion is ordered off for active service no officer has a dress suitable for the work."

We wonder if the Governor-General's Foot Guards remember how, on their last trip to Montreal for a Queen's birthday celebration, the Major-General then commanding insisted on the officers wearing their tunics *en route*, and peremptorily refused them permission to substitute patrol jackets even on the cars. The weather was hot and the road was dusty, to say nothing of the coal soot; and the consequence was that by the time the regiment reached Ottawa again the expensive gold-laced tunics were, to put it mildly, considerably damaged. Doubtless any officer who was on that excursion would strongly endorse "Utility's" views.

Last week we mentioned that the Welland *Telegraph* had made a strong appeal to the County Council to grant pecuniary assistance to the local militia. This week the same paper is able to announce that the Council has, by an almost unanimous vote, granted "a sum of \$500 to the 44th Welland battalion, and other volunteers in the county, to assist in the purchase of new helmets." This action we heartily endorse, and can assure our Welland friends that the grant will redound to the credit of their county in more ways than one, and in none more than in the improvement which will be noticeable in their quota of the militia. Men will wish to belong to a corps in which their comfort is considered, and will take a pride in their smarter appearance; consequently the men will remain longer in the regiment, and if wanted will be more efficient and will turn out more enthusiastically. It is doubtful if the council could have made a better investment of \$500. Let the action of such councils as those of Welland, Lincoln and Prince Edward be an example to other county councils, and incite them to send all their troops to next summer's camps of instruction with at least comfortable head-dresses.

On dit that a garrison club at the capital is a probability of the near future. The subject is one that deserves consideration at the hands of the officers in the city of Ottawa and surrounding district, and no doubt if organized under proper auspices and conducted with a wise supervision, it would soon become a decided success. The idea is not a new one, but of course difficulties will have to be surmounted, and certain obstacles met in a proper spirit. The material to form an excellent club is here, and the necessity for its existence is admitted.

"B" Company of the Infantry School Corps have just published a catalogue of books in their library at St. John's, P.Q., which shows that they own 746 volumes, 452 being in English, and the balance in French. The English list comprises 50 volumes of history, 14 of biography, 17 of poetry, 146 standard novels and books of reference, and the remainder well selected light literature. The French list has of biography 13 volumes, of history 14, of arts and sciences 10, the remainder being carefully selected literary works. This is a most creditable showing for so young an institution, and will indubitably help to promote the

efficiency of the corps. We have no doubt that the corps would gladly receive contributions from any friends having spare volumes on their shelves, and we are sure no better destination could be found for standard books no longer required.

Last week's general orders show a short list, including nine promotions, nine new appointments, of which six are provisional, one qualified, and two staff appointments not needing qualification; and ten losses from various causes. Most of the promotions and appointments are in the lower ranks; the only exception being the promotion of Captain and Adjutant McMichael of the Dufferin Rifles to the majority made vacant by the death of the lamented Major Hudson; and that of Major H.R. Smith to the command of the 14th P.W.O. The promotion of the former has been unusually rapid, as his commission as captain only dates from September, 1883; but the fact that he has filled the adjutancy is presumptive evidence of competency.

Ever since the return of the troops from the North-west we have had a surfeit of claimants, from Lieutenant-Colonels commanding down to Mr. Howard, to the proud title of "saviour of the country," and the latest of this class is Dr. G. T. Orton, M.P. for Centre Wellington, who, as surgeon of the 90th, was with his battalion at Batoche, and who alone, if we are to believe him, was instrumental in preventing General Middleton from retreating at the end of the first day's fighting at Batoche. If this yarn had been confined to his rural audience little harm would have come of it, but the press unfortunately got hold of it, and Dr. Orton has repeated it in the *Mail's* correspondence columns. It seems unnecessary to say that Dr. Orton must be laboring under a misapprehension, but we would simply ask our readers if a man of General Middleton's force of character would be likely to disclose his intentions to all his subordinates, and above all to change any tactical plans he might have formed on the hasty representations of a non-combatant?

We would draw special attention to the notice in our advertising columns that Captain Peters, of "A" Battery, will soon have ready albums containing copies of his instantaneous photographs of scenes in the North-west rebellion. In our issue of the 15th December we gave a somewhat full description of the circumstances under which these photographs were taken; and as they depict the most interesting scenes in the campaign of General Middleton's column, and as those of the engagements are the first photographs ever taken under fire, the collection will be unique and extremely interesting, not only for those who were at the front, but for all who have followed, or may wish hereafter to study, the events of the campaign. We would strongly advise any of our readers who can afford it to secure an album.

The firm of Messrs. Henry Jenkins & Sons, of Birmingham, England, have undertaken to supply miniatures of the medals to be issued for the suppression of the North-west rising for five shillings each, with suspender bar and ribbon attached; and if any name clasps should be required they will be included for one shilling each extra for each clasp. This satisfactory arrangement was made on behalf of the Canadian authorities by Mr. Jos. G. Colmer, Secretary, Canadian High Commissioner's office, 10 Victoria Chambers, London, S.W., to whom Messrs. Jenkins were recommended by the Master of the Royal Mint, and Mr. Colmer has further kindly signified his willingness to procure the miniatures for such officers as desire them.