

issued, and it will take a pretty smart troop that can get the saddles issued in an hour; it will take another hour to return those saddles into store, thus taking five hours on an average for which he is paid the amount that Infantry gets for a similar service performed in three. This unfairness in reference to pay has been pointed out on different occasions, but all to no purpose.

You say in your article in the October number: Our Cavalry should take into serious consideration the very unsatisfactory position they occupy in the Canadian Service owing to lack of organization. This it appears to me, should be lack of encouragement, instead of organization, and as a proof of this, you admit it, further on, by saying there are no prizes, no competitions, etc.

Your copying the comments in the *Broad Arrow*, in reference to General Middleton's enthusiasm for Garrison instruction, will explain the reason, perhaps, why he took so little interest in our Cavalry force whilst in command here. As for our own corps, it never was inspected by him, and although he has frequently passed through the Old Fort on his way to the new Garrison, I am not aware that he knew where our saddlery and arms are kept. Enthusiasm is all very well for an officer commanding any one branch of the service, but my impression is that a commanding General over our Militia should be an enthusiast for his whole Army instead of one branch of it.

Closing with these few remarks for the present.

I am yours, etc.,

ORLANDO DUNN, Bt.-Major,  
*Governor-General's Body Guard.*

#### THE PLAN OF THE MILITIA.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—The letter in your issue of January 15th, 1891, signed "District Camp Staff," throws out a few good, sound suggestions for the improvement of our Militia, but so long as the Militia is governed and managed to suit the whims of politicians, I am afraid that all such suggestions will prove to be of little service.

Speaking of unqualified officers, surely our new Commander-in-Chief, when he looked over our Militia list, must have noticed how the Regulations and Orders have been carried out in this respect, and I do hope that he will be able to influence the powers that be, for the good of the service, to a greater extent than some of his predecessors have done.

While suggesting improvement, we must, of course, remember our finances, and there is no doubt but that the Militia might be made far more efficient than it is to-day without one cent of additional expense.

To my mind, the most important part of "District Camp Staff's" letter is his reference to rural corps. His suggestion is an excellent one to modify the present wild system of drilling these skeleton battalions. I would go even further and say that a great many of them should not exist at all, for money is wasted upon them year after year that might be so usefully expended with either independent companies at towns and villages or city corps, where you always have your men available in cases of emergency.

The authorities do not seem to favour independent companies, and the tendency appears to be to disband as fast as possible the few that remain. I think that this is a pity, because a well-looked-after independent company in a town or village is of some permanent good to the force.

I am well aware that there are in Canada a few rural battalions whose companies are well organized, and whose men are available at other times than when the corps happens to be under canvas, but these are very few, and I have seen a corps go into camp for twelve days' drill with scarcely enough of "last year's" men to make non-com. officers. In case of sudden trouble I think it would be quite as easy to enrol a new battalion as to resurrect one

of these shells, and bear in mind that these "shells" draw the same pay per man each year they drill as our city corps, besides the additional expense of a twelve days' camp.

Yours, etc.,

"IMPROVE."

#### HARD LUCK FOR CHARLOTTETOWN RIFLEMEN.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—With your kind permission I wish to lay before your readers a matter of vital importance to the welfare of the militia of the Province of Prince Edward Island, and to endeavour thereby to redress a grievance which it appears cannot be reached through the regular channel.

The facts of the case are as follows: We have for a long time been in the enjoyment of a rifle range conveniently situated both from its proximity to the City of Charlottetown and from its freedom from danger arising from stray bullets. For the use of this range for annual target practice by the city companies and for the camp of rural battalions held at Brighton near by, the Department of Militia has heretofore allowed the Provincial Rifle Association the sum of \$80 per annum, which was then paid over to the owners of the land. Two years ago this tract of land, consisting of 80 acres, was sold to an Association for the purpose of an Exhibition Ground and Race Course. A portion of which, about one-half part, including the range site, not required by the company, was sold for a larger figure to Mr. Warburton, who proposed cutting it up into building lots. The purchaser gave notice to the Rifle Association that the previous arrangement of \$80 per annum would be terminated, and that owing to the increased value of the land the sum of \$150 would have to be charged.

The officers of the Militia in the District then requested the Brigade Major to communicate with the Department, stating the facts and to request that the annual rent of \$150 be paid. I have been informed by him that he did write in compliance with our request but received no reply, he wrote again, but received no reply, he telegraphed but received no reply, he wrote again, accompanied this time by a strong appeal from Lieut.-Col. Moore, commanding the Brigade of Garrison Artillery of Prince Edward Island, but to this he received no reply.

Finding the militia of this district would have no range for annual target practice, for League matches, or voluntary practice he undertook to pay the rent himself, expecting, of course, the Minister of Militia would not refuse his reasonable request.

Again the Brigade Major wrote urging that the loss of this range would be a serious blow to the interests of our Militia, and that a feeling of strong dissatisfaction would be engendered if something were not done. To this at last came a reply curtly refusing the request.

In view of these facts, and as I learn that the recommendation of Lieut.-Col. Irving was strongly backed up by the D.A.G., the Adjutant-General, the General of Militia, and the Deputy Minister, we have fair cause to appeal through the columns of your valuable paper for a just recognition of our claims.

WILLIAM A. WEEKS,

*Captain of the Charlottetown Engineer Company.*  
Charlottetown, P.E.I., January 22nd, 1891.

#### R. M. C. MATRICULATION.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I have read with much pleasure the article on the R. M. C. Matriculation in your issue of the 15th inst., and am glad to see that a move has been made in the right direction, namely, raising the standard of efficiency for entrance to the college. Now that you have taken the initiative in calling attention to this important question, I think this is an opportune moment to