

plied with trained officers and don't. The country bears this great expense principally to provide the active militia with professionally trained officers. Professionally the school succeeds admirably. In the Imperial Army its graduates have made and are making enviable names for themselves. And yet Canada, after burdening herself with the expense of their training, refuses to avail herself of their services.

We have heard some things about the absurd application of Chinese statesmanship to military administration lately, but this little example of the application of Canadian statesmanship, (save the mark), to military administration quite out-Chinas the Chinese.

The permanent corps of the active militia are supposed to be models for the rest of the force, and their officers are supposed to be the professors at the military schools they were established to maintain. The officers should consequently be drawn from the very best available material, but they are not. The claims of the ablest men in the active militia have been regularly passed over and so have those of the graduates of the Royal Military College. Two or three times in the course of a decade able officers in the militia or the graduates of the R.M.C. have captured commissions in the permanent corps, but it has been because they had stronger political pulls than their rivals, not because of their qualifications. The commission goes to the man with the strongest political backing without respect to qualification. That is a rule as hard and fast as the laws of the Medes and Persians.

Mr. Sutton, appointed to the Royal Canadian Dragoons, Winnipeg, has joined his corps. Mr. Sutton, on his arrival in Canada a couple of years ago, joined a Maritime Province regiment and immediately went in for a long course at the cavalry school. Being unfortunate in his examination he was granted leave to take a special course, after which he passed the examination necessary to obtain the appointment which he has secured.

At least three splendidly equipped graduates of the Royal Military College were applicants for the

commission, but they lacked the necessary political and social backing and of course were out of the race.

The twenty-fourth of the last month was the tenth anniversary of the battle of Fish Creek during the Northwest campaign. The action showed that Canadian militiamen had not forgotten how to fight and die for their country, but it also showed that there were glaring defects in the organization and equipment of the force. The accoutrements were so defective that the men were unable to take sufficient ammunition into action with them, and after the fight unused cartridges were found scattered all over the prairie where they had fallen out of broken or overfilled "ball bags." Nothing has been done towards improving the equipment of the militia since 1885.

The force is anxiously awaiting the action of the new minister with regard to the question of re-armament. The rural corps were deprived of their drill pay last year to put the department into funds to buy the first installment of Martini-Metfords. The rifles have not materialized, and the force naturally wonders whether the department is going to allow the money to revert to the Dominion treasury. Much though as we would like to see the force supplied with a new rifle, we would like to see every precaution taken in the selection of a new arm. Nothing should be done until an expert committee has fully determined which is the very best rifle for the peculiar conditions existing in the Canadian militia.

The annual report of the D.R.A. is out and contains some interesting reading. The chairman of the council, in his statement, makes an announcement which will give satisfaction to those who have been urging a more economical management of the prize meeting. The announcement reads:—

"The question of a reduction in the expenses of management of the annual competitions and the camp arrangements at Ottawa, which would appear to be gradually increasing in amount from year to year, has engaged the attention of the Council, and with a view of ascertaining if the expenditure could be reduced in some direction to bring the same within the annual revenue, a Committee was appointed to make the necessary enquiry in this regard."

The financial statement contains some interesting figures. The entry fees to matches, including the charge for sighting shots, post entries and fines for challenge shots, amounted to \$4,118.20, as against \$3,701.90 received last year, showing an increase of \$416.30. After deducting the actual cost of the ammunition and the charges connected with the distribution at the several ranges, including pay of employees and cartage, a balance remains at credit of ammunition account of \$134.48. The expenditure on account of the Bisley team amounted to \$5,859.78, as against \$5,448.21 in 1893, an increase of \$411.57. This is accounted for by the increased cost of passages of the team to England, and also the return passages of members of the team to their homes in Ontario and British Columbia.

Major E. B. Ibbotson, of the Royal Scots, who commanded last year's Bisley team, sends in a very interesting report. The following remarks of the gallant major are worthy of publication:—

"It will rarely happen that six men from one battalion will secure places on the Canadian Team, but the success of the 12th would indicate that where three or four men of one corps wins places a local effort should be made, with the concurrence of the D. R. A., to find the men and the money requisite to complete the battalion team for the Ranelagh Cups. This matter is of sufficient importance to warrant careful consideration."

Major Ibbotson does not speak very hopefully of Canada's chances of winning the Kolapore cups. He says:—

"It affords me great satisfaction that the Canadian team took 2nd place in the Kolapore Match, winning £80 and defeating all other teams from different parts of the Empire. Canada can hope but rarely to beat the Mother Country, considering the material from which this team is selected, and the masterly way it is coached and handled. Even with an occasional victory, as in the past, the Canadians are likely to find it increasingly difficult to maintain second place."

Major Ibbotson is, however, a great believer in the advantage of sending a Canadian team to Bisley for he says:—

"The D. R. A. is sending a team year by year to the N. R. A. meeting, renders a service of the highest value to the Canadian force and to the Dominion at large. It provides an incentive to excellence in the use of the rifle of the most honourable and patriotic kind and is spoken of with