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THE schools of military instruction form the subject of the extracts published this week from the annual report of the militia department. Taking first the cavalry school at Quebec it will be seen that that institution is in a flourishing condition, notwithstanding the reverse experienced by the fire which destroyed the barracks last summer. The result of General Middleton's constant admonitions respecting rifle practice is seen in the statement that "increased attention has been given to musketry instruction," but the subsequent statement that while the troop is armed with Winchester carbines there is no ammunition in store, makes one apt to doubt the practical value of the instruction. It would seem to be indisputable that either a supply should be immediately procured; or, as Col. Turnbull recommends, the Winchesters should give place to Martini-Henrys.

BY the way, why should the officer commanding a Canadian corps consider it necessary to supplement his statement that \$11 had been received from a certain source, with the words, "or, to be more exact, £2 5s." Our currency is reckoned in dollars and cents, not pounds, shillings and pence.

AN increase in the field artillery establishment at Kingston is asked for by the inspector of artillery in his annual report, which will be found in brief in this issue. It is shown that the field battery officers and men attending for instruction outnumber almost ten to one those of the garrison branch, and as there is no prospect of a reverse in the proportion, the recommendation would appear to be based on common sense, and worthy of prompt fulfilment. The increased expenditure involved would not be serious, and it will not be disputed by any economist that it is preferable to pay a fair price for a greatly improved service, than, in order to save a few dollars, to deprive the artillery schools of the opportunity of by so simple a change very largely augmenting the value of the instruction they impart.

ONE would think that the officer commanding C battery would be content for a reasonable time after the recent addition of a hundred men to his former command—one sergeant, we have been told in parliament. But he continues to report that the established strength of the battery is too low, giving his reasons as detailed elsewhere. There is one recommendation in his report which should receive immediate attention—that is, concerning the officers' pay. The men of the battery have

been granted an additional allowance in consequence of the greater cost of living on the Pacific coast, but the officers have had no increase on their rather poor pay received in the East. Surely this was an oversight.

NOTHING will do so much towards the improvement of the permanent corps, as to imbue the men with the idea that the officers and authorities generally take a real interest in promoting their welfare and comfort. It is pleasant to note such facts as those narrated by Lieut.-Col. Taylor in his report on the Mounted Infantry School at Winnipeg concerning the gardens laid out adjoining the barracks, and apportioned off to such of the men as were inclined to look after them. This had the effect, said the report, of creating an interest in the barracks as a home, and furnishing a pleasant occupation for spare time.

LIEUT.-COL. OTTER'S remarks on the necessity of instruction in equitation at the Infantry Schools, will without doubt greatly strengthen the hands of those who are working to secure for Toronto the proposed new cavalry school. This officer has not by any means been the sole witness of the spectacle of mounted officers of infantry being compelled on parade to pay exclusive attention to their untamed steeds, while the men did the best they could for themselves; and if arrangements could be made for instruction in equitation at one or all of the infantry schools, it would be a cause for general congratulation.

THE *Revue Militaire de l'Etranger* publishes some interesting notes on Russian experiments carried on at Stanislau in the transport of field artillery through thick snow on sledges. Strong sledges in use in the vicinity for the conveyance of wood were employed for the purpose, and the application appears to have been very simple. A stout log of timber destined to support the axletree, is placed in the longitudinal axis of the sledge and stoutly secured. The gun-carriage is run trail first over the sledge, the width of which being less than the track of the wheels of the gun renders this possible. The under-surface of the axletree being made to rest on the log above mentioned, the wheels are removed and placed over the trail. Provision is made of the security from injury of the elevating gear. The axletree arms and trail are now secured by lashings, as also the wheels. The whole rides with sufficient stability, and the axletree seats, if any, may be occupied by two gunners. The limber is similarly disposed on a second sledge, except that no log is here necessary to support the axletrees. The pole (or shafts) may be lashed between the "sabots" of the sledge. Three gunners may be seated on the limber boxes. There remains ample space, after placing and lashing the wheels in rear of the ammunition boxes, either for the conveyance of more men of the gun detachment, or of extra forage. Chains may be placed underneath the "sabots" of the sledge when the use of a drag is necessary in hilly country or on slippery roads. The gun carriage and limber can be loaded simultaneously on sleighs, and after a few trials less than nine minutes will suffice for completion of the