

there is not time to instruct them properly in camp—where thousands have to be rushed through their course in any way which is a very bad principle to work on. I wished to drill my men carefully in it, and their shooting shows that they do not need it worse than others. The firing a few rounds at home—where they have plenty of time to learn to fire and handle their rifles accurately—will do far more to make men good marksmen than firing a thousand rounds in camp.

Now if it is not on the ground of economy, it must be favouriteism, and if it is, I am going to unearth it and have the offender punished.

If on the ground of economy, I will let the Government into a little secret and give them a little of advice, whereby they can save sufficient money to supply every captain who ask for ammunition with all he wants and give him that much assistance in keeping up a national army, and not be throwing impediments in his way.

As from the result of the vote of Sir J. A. McDonald's amendment, it is evident the government is a free trade one—I will not ask for protection, but for a little more free trade, as in some things we have to much protection—to let some light on the subject, I will mention coal oil—which in Cape Vincent, just one mile from Wolfe Island, costs 10 cents per gallon and yet is sold in the stores here for 35— that is, to those who will encourage native industries at the rate of 25 cents per gallon. I am not one—as the Yankee product is much the best.

Now not one barrel in 100 of that which is used pays the duty, and for this reason—It is taxed 150 per cent., or in other words, 15 cents per gallon, and when bought at that is often sent back as being below standard, when it is a well known fact that it is better than the Canadian product. Now there are a fewer number of men employed in the manufacture of refined petroleum than almost any other product—for instance—Iron, and yet iron is taxed 17½ per cent for the very highest grades, and coal oil 150 per cent, and yet the oil is more generally used than the iron—particularly and in proportion by the poor.

I would like some protective M. P., to investigate this and see how many there are engaged in the manufacture of oil and just see what proportion they bear to the consumers, and whether the manufactures are in any way related to members of the government.

Now if the government would do the fair thing—give the manufacturers the 5 per cent excise and 5 per cent protection, or even have a fixed rate and say 5 cents per gall excise and 5 cts per gall protection as I am a believer in protection, and even then it would be taxed double as much as almost any other product. Let the standard be decided by the consumers and I will wager that no more oil would be smuggled across the border and a very large amount of revenue be realized.

Then let part of the money so saved be given to the Volunteers in the shape of prizes and ammunition, and they would hear no more on the subject from

J. H. RADFORD,

Capt. No. 6 Comy. 47th Battalion.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

MONTREAL, March 28, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—The Militia Report for 1875 being at the present time prominently before the public with the numerous recommendations and suggestions for improving the present Active Force, it may not come amiss to ask the question—where are a sufficient number of trained men to be had, and by what means are they to be trained to keep the Force in the future, up to the present state of efficiency? In the past we had the School of Military instruction, which have done great service in supplying the volunteer force with a large proportion of its best trained and most efficient officers, non-commissioned officers and men, whose services in the past during the Fenian excitements, Red River troubles &c, as well as at the present time, when so many of the cadets are to be found serving in the ranks of the companies on service and the Mounted Police on the plains of the North West, shows that the money expended by the Country in keeping the schools open has been of good service to the Country, and of the force, in furnishing so large a quota to reliable and well trained men.

In the past besides these schools we had the men of the British Regular Regiments who while serving here took their discharge, and remained in the country, a great many of whom joined the volunteer force.

Now that this source of obtaining trained men is in a great manner done away with, and the schools of instruction are abolished with the exception of those in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, which are only opened for a short time in the year, and the Schools of Gunnery at Quebec and Kingston where but few are admitted during the year; the Active Force will not retain its present state of efficiency unless something is done to supply the vacuum that will soon be found. A good plan would be for a system of drill and Rifle instruction to be introduced into the public schools by government co-operation with the School Commissioners, this plan has worked well in other Countries, and even in Canada heretofore has worked well; wherever cadet corps or Drill Associations have been in existence in connection with Colleges or Schools, the ranks of the Local Corps have been swelled by many a man whose military ardour was just aroused and whose first insight into a soldier's duties was gained while at college or school.

At the present time a Gentleman well known in Military circles in Montreal has gone heartily into the matter, being supported by the commissioners of several of the Public Schools here, and is having made

for instructing the Boys in Arm drill a wooden gun with malleable iron, lock, trigger, and guard, that will fully answer the purpose and can be had for something less than 50 cents each, which, when taking into consideration the beneficial results to be obtained, will be found a very moderate outlay.

This movement only requires the favourable consideration and support of the Government, to be of great service to the Volunteer Force in the future.

I remain Sir,

Your Obt. Servant.

KANUCK.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MONTREAL, 31st March, 1876.

Our City Corps deserve credit for the weekly attendance at drills, which they have kept up during the whole of the winter, notwithstanding the want of proper accommodation.

On Monday the 27th inst, the Victoria Rifles turned out in full force with their splendid band, and went through several battalion movements in the City Hall, which was densely crowded with spectators to view this favorite regiment.

Colonel Labranche is busily employed in bringing the new Mount Royal Rifles into perfect organization.

The Royals or 5th Fusiliers are expecting the arrival of their uniform from England. The band of this gallant corps under the supervision of Mr. Hecker, late H.M. 82nd Regt., have given some very successful Concerts in the Mechanics' Hall.

The Prince of Wales Rifles give their last *Social Entertainment* on the 3rd of next month, and it is mentioned that Mr. Thomas Hurst, the bandmaster, who is so favourably known in Montreal as a vocalist (ready at all times to assist at the concerts or musical reunions of the volunteer force), will be tendered a complimentary benefit on his own behalf very shortly.

New saddlery is much required for the Troop of Montreal Hussars, this corps is also unprovided with cloaks, and is in point of horse, and other appointments, far behind the lately raised troops of Cavalry, who have all been furnished with the new pattern saddle, wallets, sabres &c.

Owing to the recent heavy fall of snow the streets of Montreal are in a shocking state, and locomotion through pools of water and other obstructions is at the present time any thing but a pleasant undertaking.

The Montreal Evening Star, a paper that brings out any failings of the Corporation, in its duties to the citizens, impute the disgraceful state of the sidewalks to the negligence of the police in not forcing householders to attend to the regulations for keeping the same in order. This is certainly a true bill.

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Navigation on the Hudson is now regarded as open.