

A correspondent of the *Quebec Chronicle* states flatly that some of the officers marked in the Militia List as having taken part in the suppression of the Fenian raids are not entitled to that distinction, and counsels that the Minister of Militia should have the list revised. The correspondent must surely be mistaken, for the general order asking that details should be forwarded to headquarters, specified what information was required, and it would be easy for the Department to check by the records the claims sent in. A general charge such as that made in the *Chronicle* is useless and even mischievous; if anyone knows of a fraudulent record being obtained it is his duty to the whole force to come forward manfully and explicitly expose the fraud.

The 7th Fusiliers "see the Dufferin Rifles," in the matter of Christmas cards, "and go them one better." That just issued by the former corps depicts an episode of their North-west experience, when, as their own poet tells us in questionable metre,

"Down the dark Saskatchewan river
In those good flat-bottomed boats,
Through the haunts of the otter and beaver,
Floated we with the government oats."

The scow has got stuck on a mud bank, and the "boys," in uniform more undress than any described even by "Noodle," are wading ashore with the freight, while one has accomplished the feat of falling flat on his back without wetting any of his clothes. The badge and device of the regiment handsomely printed in a circle in the upper right hand corner complete their unique memento.

We publish this week some proposals for simplification of the present method of formation for attack arranged by Captain Lydon, adjutant of the Fifth Royal Scots, and now submitted for the consideration and criticism of the force at large. The scheme appears to be somewhat similar to those prepared by Col. Macdonald and Capt. Ian Hamilton in England.

A correspondent in Digby, Nova Scotia, complains that the Government grant to county rifle associations was withheld this past year in some cases in the Ninth military district, and instances those of the counties of Digby and Hants. He says that for want of the grant the Digby association, of which he is a member, was unable to hold its usual annual matches, and he looks upon the omission as a great loss to the men of the county in consequence of discouraging them from practice. We quite agree with him that the withholding of a grant is a great loss, but the question arises, whose fault was it? The Militia Department has proved pretty liberal with grants, and in many cases has even given them to very unworthy associations, which did little for themselves, and virtually held close matches with the money so received for the benefit of a few fossil members. Before we pronounce an opinion in this case we should like to be assured that the association was a *live* one, that it had complied with the Regulations and Orders, that it had forwarded returns as required, and that the Deputy-Adjutant-General had forwarded these returns with his recommendation. If we found that all these points were satisfactory, we should then be prepared to "sail for" the Department.

Saturday's *Official Gazette* contains the appointment of Capt. Henry Streatfield, Grenadier Guards, to be secretary and military secretary to the Governor-General of Canada, *vice* the Viscount Melgund, resigned. Capt. Streatfield, who has been on His Excellency's staff since the beginning of his term of office, is deservedly popular throughout the Dominion, and his appointment will give general satisfaction.

REFLECTIONS ON UNIFORM.—III.

The next article of uniform to be considered is the head dress, and, simple as it may seem to wear a cap, there are many officers who are either totally ignorant, or very careless, about this part of their dress, for we often meet an otherwise well-dressed officer with his busby or helmet tilted to one side, or so small that it will not come down low enough by an inch or more; while the drooping peak forage cap is seen canted off the forehead, instead of coming down so that a finger can barely be inserted between the peak and the nose. The glengarry and the round forage cap of the cavalry, artillery and rifles, of course, must be worn on the side of the head, and look abominably unless carefully so adjusted. Another little matter must not be forgotten, and that is the chin strap, which many officers think entirely unnecessary with the forage cap, keeping it coiled up in the crown instead of always wearing it under the chin, or with the full dress chains hooked up as if intended for ornament only; many of us, no doubt, have seen the appearance of a parade in heavy marching order spoiled by officers and men having their chin chains hooked up; a very trifling matter, some will say; but it is only by attention to trifles that the standing of a regiment can be kept up, and if these are attended to matters of more importance will take care of themselves.

Trousers are too often made of inferior cloth, and a further mistake is having them cut in fashionable style; they should neither be too tight nor too loose, and should fit neatly over the boot. Mounted officers are too often careless about breeches, and it is no uncommon thing to see these articles made from old trousers, with no fit at all; and—horror of horrors—the writer once saw a major on regimental parade with trousers tucked into his boots. Here is another item to reflect on—boots—we see officers wearing all kinds of styles, from a low shoe to an elastic side; while Wellingtons are the proper thing; a good laced shooting boot always looks well and is the best for marching; mounted officers also are too often satisfied with a common cow-hide boot for riding, instead of those with regulation patent leather legs.

Now perhaps a little reflection on the subject of accoutrements, &c., may do some good, and first comes the sash. Does anyone know why this article should be worn? Of course we know why it was first adopted, and the use it was put to, but now-a-days it is hard to find out why it should be worn except as a useless badge. A silk sash, moreover, as worn by most militia officers, is very unsightly. To look at all well it should be folded neatly over a red leather lining about four inches wide. Some infantry corps have already discarded it (except for full dress, when the gold sash is worn), and have adopted the cross belt and field glass case, and while this makes the officers look more uniform and like the men, it is very uncomfortable on a hot day, being tight over the chest and drawing the perspiration through the tunic, and is likewise inconvenient if a great coat has to be worn over it; the field glass case is, however, of infinitely more use than the pouch of cavalry, artillery, rifles, &c., which contains nothing, and the use of which nobody knows. Sword belts come next on our list, and are a subject of much vexation to commanding officers, who wish to see those under their command turn out properly dressed; dirty belts, with leather cracked, no waist plates, and the slings so long that the sword drags along as if it did not belong to the wearer, are seen every day, and then the sword itself, with its scabbard very often dirty, battered or entirely unburnished, and the wearer feeling supremely happy if he can discover one of his men with a dirty rifle or unburnished buttons. Oh! why do such officers disgrace the Queen's uniform? Nor must we forget sword knots, which are worn by officers, who should know better, in all sorts of ways and of all kinds; gold, silver, or buff, without regard to the rest of their uniform. Some will say gloves are of no importance, and any kind will do; well, they are important enough to have a place in the dress regulations, which specify that white buck or leather shall be worn, and officers in the face of this are perfectly contented to wear filthy kids, which once were white, or if they do wear buck or deerskin, have them pipeclayed only on very special occasions.

A very few words on the subject of mess dress will suffice, as this is generally correctly worn, perhaps because there is some ease and comfort in it, but still there are mistakes made, and some are not sufficiently particular about the fit of their trousers round the seat, or do not wear the proper collar or black necktie; the regulations lately published allowing officers of infantry to wear gold lace trousers with mess jacket at balls and dances is a good one, putting them on a par with other branches of the service, and is a privilege which even officers of the army do not enjoy; the mess jacket is certainly the best uniform for a dance, as none who try dancing in a tunic are anxious to repeat the experiment.

The principal articles of uniform have now been touched upon, and the faults in the wearing been pointed out, and only one or two other