

years may sometimes only receive one year's drill during that time instead of getting as they should every two years a knowledge of drill. This would happen by a recruit joining a corps just after it had performed its annual drill.

I cannot resume my seat without thanking you and the officers for the princely hospitality, the recipient of which I am, and the pleasure is enhanced, if possible, by the fact that I see here my colleagues, Mr. Bowell and Mr. Smith, representatives of the Government, and the pleasure is also enhanced by the fact that it is my privilege to present to you your new commandant of the Canadian force, Major-General Herbert. This selection was made from the high reputation which this gentleman enjoyed and from records and services which were acknowledged by the Imperial Government, and which were forwarded to me and accepted by us as being sufficient guarantee for our entrusting to him the command of a force which I love and which I should not like to place in hands which were not deserving.

Coming here as I occasionally do, but not so often as I would like to, it is the greatest pleasure that I as a Canadian can possibly enjoy, when I feel that among you I am at home, among you I feel a Canadian, among you I feel that my heart beats as your heart beats for the same cause, the same Queen and country. As long as we the Canadian people remain a united people, putting aside differences which have no reason to exist; I say if we as a people united and true to our trust carry out what Providence has reserved as being the destiny and future of this country, if we work hand in hand for the good of our Dominion, we shall make it a country that will be ever in the pages of the history of the world, and make for it a place that will have no mean place among the nations that live. I cannot forget that you the men of Ontario, and we the men of Quebec, whenever troubles have arisen in our country, or on the field of battle, have always been found fighting together the battles of Canada, whether speaking French or whether speaking English, and when the brave Brock was dying on Queenston Heights, giving his heart's blood for his country which he so much loved, he cried, "Go forward, brave militia of York!" That is what has been said in another section of the country by Gen. de Salaberry, who was leading a French battalion fighting for the same cause, "Stand by your flag and fight the battles of your country!"

Gentlemen, let me again thank you from the bottom of my heart for the splendid hospitality you have extended to me and let me tell you that if my duties as a public man and as the administrator of one of the departments permitted me I should oftener be among you, but I have to fight battles, common battles, in a section of the country where my friend Mr. Bowell and my friend Mr. Smith would not care to address the people in their own language, but which battles prevent my being with you on many occasions when I would have desired it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.]

THE COMMAND OF THE BISLEY TEAM.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—I notice in your issue of 27th Nov. that "Foresight" has strong objections to a commandant for the Bisley team for 1891, being chosen from Nova Scotia. The officer he brings forward is worthy of the command, and no doubt has contributed a great deal to the advancement of the force, but "Foresight" should not forget that the Nova Scotians have yet some claim. That old Province contains officers who have worked years and years (long before confederation) for the honour of the old flag, and to-day that Province has men in the force equally as capable as the officer named. Twenty-five years is a short

service compared with some of our officers in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. The writer has been in the force for 28 years and is only a captain, yet he feels as good and active—even after going through the raid in '69 and the North-West Rebellion in 1885—as many others who had not that chance. This petty jealousy is what holds our force back. This unnecessary public attention to the details of military matters is the cause of many a failure in our work. As an old officer and comrade in arms, I would suggest a complete silence in such matters. We have placed in the D. R. A. a board of gentlemen in whom we should have full trust. Why hamper their actions by writing about matters we, by their election, have left in their hands. This seems to me like a "want of confidence."

I have no doubt the selection they will make will be for the honour of our militia.

N. B.

THE PRACTICE RECORD.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—My attention has been directed to a communication which appeared in your issue of the 18th inst. in which the writer claims for Ottawa preeminence for enthusiastic devotion to the rifle range. Though he does not mention my name he refers to some circumstances in connection with my personality which are quite sufficient for those of your readers who know me to understand to whom he refers. Now, Mr. Editor, I beg to say that I am in perfect agreement with "Ottawa First" when he says that this city can boast of a devotee of the range who is without a peer, and it is solely because I have no desire to belie the character for modesty which your correspondent accords me, that I am compelled to disclaim a record which properly and deservedly belongs to another. I have no doubt it will be apparent to the more penetrating of your readers that only a person possessing facilities for observing my daily habits and movements, in short one who could not have been very far from the range at any time, could have furnished so complete a statement of facts as your writer produces in support of his contention. As, however, that natural deduction may have escaped some of your readers, I would ask you to make room in your columns for a few remarks which I think will convince you that the championship in this contest belongs to "Ottawa First." He has withheld his proper signature in the letter he addressed to you so I shall refrain from giving publicity to his name. I have, moreover, a further reason for not wishing to make this matter directly personal, as I have a very gratifying souvenir of the hearty welcome with which he greeted me every time I went to the range. Indeed, no host could have treated a guest better than I was treated by the gentleman who, by his unfailing presence at the range, in sunshine and rain, in melting heat and chilling cold, led to the notion that he was living there. Possibly it may have been a spirit of jealousy on account of my proximity to the range that prompted him to refer to me; or was it because he dreaded that his reputation of the previous year would mark him as the most fitting one to represent Ottawa's claim and by anticipating that publicity escape its consequences? Why, sir, many a day during the summer, while I was quietly pursuing the even tenor of my way, I was called to the telephone by a voice that had become so familiar that there was no mistaking it, asking me to go to the range. Of course I generally consented to go as I thought he must have felt at times as if he would like someone to protect him from, or share with him, the undeniable comment which his constant presence at the rifle range would naturally give rise to; but little did I think that my generous impulses were going to be repaid in so ungallant a manner. So strongly attached to the range had he become that as the end of the shooting season approached it seemed a painful ordeal to him to leave his