

military body under command of officers of the army, trained for their business in peace times. The paymaster's business is partially attended to by the "intendant," so far as the issue of funds to the battalion paymasters is concerned. The battalion (cavalry regimental) paymaster is usually a former first sergeant or sergeant major, who may get a brevet as second lieutenant. Each battalion has its own cash box, with three different keys, one in the hands of the commanding officer, one in the keeping of the senior captain, and the third with the above named paymaster. The paymaster estimates and presents his requisitions from month to month only. The cash box is accessible if the three officers meet, and the amount on hand never exceeds one month's pay for the battalion. Every ten days the amount needed is taken out, the two officers acting, so to say, as presidents of the bank, the paymaster as cashier and bookkeeper, and the money is paid over to the captains, who receipt and pay the company by their first sergeant, the soldiers having the amount entered in their separate little account-books. Officers receive pay every month, men every ten days, always in advance. Upon what a pittance Prussian soldiers and junior officers manage to live appears to us here almost incredible. The fact is that at least ninety-nine per cent. of the soldiers are assisted by their families during their term of service, and the lieutenants could hardly do without some pocket-money from the "governor." But the army is looked upon as a national institution, which has to be maintained somehow or other, and it appears to nobody in any way as a concern to make money by; and those who enter the army as professional officers for life know that only after years of toil and short allowance will they reach a position yielding them sufficient to live upon.

Medical officers enjoy a position between the non-combatants and the officers. As they have so very often occasion to attend to their duties under fire, they are looked upon as standing nearer to the line officers than the other administrative officers.* The material for the organization of the field corps, hospital and division hospital to each corps, are of course always ready with the medical director of the corps. The stretcher-bearers are organized separate military companies, and undergo training like other corps, especially at the usual manoeuvres every fall. But in the medical department a great many things cannot be done before the moment has actually arrived; and in no branch of the service is the difference between what is indispensable in peace time and needed in war so great as in the medical department. To accumulate medical stores and to have a reserve of medical officers in case of war is, in fact, all that can be done in preparation; and there will never be enough when most needed, especially if the war assumes so sanguinary a character covers so small a space of ground as wars are apt to do now. Medical students are permitted if they choose to fulfil their military duty as assistant surgeons, with a view to their entering in war into the medical corps; but there will never be accommodations enough if 40,000 men get killed and wounded in one day's battle, as at Gravelotte.

All trains of an army corps are under command of the field officer commanding the train battalion. He receives his orders from the commanding general, through the chief of artillery as regards the reserve ammunition trains, through the "intendant"

*They enjoy assimilated military rank; officers of the "intendant's" corps do not.

as regards provision trains, through the medical director as regards the ambulance trains. All these staff officers of course issue as a rule no orders except with the knowledge and consent of the chief of staff, who is the executive officer (this professionally nautical expression answers very well).

All these trains and other similar institutions—like the telegraph and railroad parties—are represented on a small scale in peace, for the purpose of training and of attending to the administration and preservation of the stores. In fact, nobody in the Prussian army gets anything new to do or even to look at when war commences, until the bullets—which, however, in the great war now going on, have been not new to the greater number of either officers or men.

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

(The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.)

FROM BROCKVILLE.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Your correspondent has had the pleasure of reading the pamphlet entitled "A Few Words on Canada: By a Canadian;" this little book should be placed in every house in the Dominion, and its distribution in the old country would doubtless cause many there to seek a permanent home in this Dominion, and if the principles it inculcates were taught to all Canadian children it would tend to create and keep alive that national spirit so necessary for our welfare, and which is, I am sorry to say, very much weakened by our close proximity to the great republic.

The author's remarks on the Militia should be well digested by our people, and as your readers must feel an interest in all historical events connected with the earlier days of our colony, the troubles of 1837 and 1838 being referred to, I give a copy of an official return, showing the number of killed and wounded in the fight at Windmill Point, Prescott, on the 13th November, 1838, which were as follows, viz:—"Two Lieutenants and thirteen rank and file killed, and one Lieutenant-Colonel, two Lieutenants, one Ensign, one sergeant and fifty-four rank and file wounded;" this was on the British side which shows a much more formidable engagement than the most of our present generation would have any idea of. Perhaps you can inform your readers if it is a fact that the officer (regular) who commanded on that occasion shivered so with fright that his feet could be heard rattling in his stirrups, and that our militia actually hissed him?

The last party connected with the "Driving Club," for the season, came off with great eclat in the Victoria Hall on the evening of the 17th inst. Thanks to the kind superintendence of Capt. Worsley, Brockville and Ottawa Railway Artillery, the hall was most beautifully decorated, and while the stewards doubtless deserve much credit I believe all were indebted to our popular

Mayor, Lt.-Col. Buoll, for much of the comfort, order and good management. The ladies of the town responded liberally to the call for provisions and the lady committee deserve much praise for so fine a table. The whole of the Brockville and Ottawa Railway Artillery band were present and gave most excellent music, the style and time being faultless. Mr. Trondell, the leader, should feel proud to be at the head of this band, which is, I believe the only Volunteer one in the Dominion which the whole strength (20) can play dance music with their ordinary wind instruments.

The gayeties of the season are to close by two weddings on shrove Tuesday, after which, I presume, the prayers through Lent will not be the less fervent for having passed so cheerful a winter.

[Perhaps it was with cold the gallant officer shivered; at any rate, in order to prevent this, we would suggest *woolen stirrups*, such as are used by Yankee soldiers, next time, so the Militia wont have a chance of hearing the music.—Ed. Vol. Rev.]

The following is one of the steepest stories we have read for a long time. The *pig skin wallet* is about the largest kind of *crammer* but it is out-distanced by Colonel Job Stout's coat riddled by *forty bullets*—and the colonel lived afterwards:

"The *Eldorado Ledger* says Colonel Job Stout, Recorder of Herdin County, has the most remarkable pocket-book on record:—"It is made of pig skin dressed by one of the pilgrim fathers, and manufactured into its present shape by himself. It was from the back of the first hog slain by the colonists. A forefather of Colonel Stout's carried the pig skin wallet through the French war and Indian, and was shot beside the brave General Wolfe on the bloody Heights of Abraham, in September, 1759. The pocket book, containing some English coin, found its way back to the right family, and held nothing but English coin and Bank of England notes until the revolutionary war. Col. Stout's grandfather marched with it on his person to Canada with General Montgomery. It was at Stillwater; ferried the Delaware, at the memorable Trenton surprise; and when peace was declared contained two thousand dollars of Continental currency, most of which its present owner retains. In the late internecine war, Colonel Job Stout carried the pig skin wallet through several engagements, and when he fell at Richmond the historical wallet of pilgrim pig skin was perforated with bullets and saturated with blood. The Colonel's coat is now on exhibition at Indianapolis, riddled by forty bullets. This wallet has been in use one hundred and ninety years."

DRILL ASSOCIATION.—We learn that a large drill Association has been formed under the direction of Adjt. Desjardine of the 17th Batt. composed of all the principle officers in the usual battalions as well as many civilians. The following gentlemen have been elected to hold office:—President—Lieut.-Col. I. J. Duchesnay; Vice-President—Major Tacho (Kamouraska); Secretary—Treasurer—Major Martin (Kamouraska); Committee of Management—Major Fortior (Dorchester), Adjt. Dessaint (Kamouraska). The object of the Association is for the purpose of obtaining instructions in the principles of the new drill.—*Quebec Chronicle*.