

registry to deferred pension of 4*d.* a day, if discharged with one badge, and of 6*d.*, if discharged with two badges.

These free discharges, whether with or without gratuity or pension, are however under either warrant distinctly declared to be indulgences to be granted or withheld at the pleasure of the Crown. A similar question arose regarding the men volunteering from regiments leaving Canada to permanent line service in the Colony, when one year addition to their previous service is granted; and Lord Hill has been requested to fix a specific period after volunteering, previously to which the additional year should not reckon in reference to discharge, nor the discharge be claimable. This period has not yet been fixed.

The benefit accorded to the men of the Canadian Battalion will be the increased pay of 1*d.* a day, to which the men enlisted under the warrant of 1829, would be entitled as gratuity if discharged by indulgence after 15 years' service.

The object of raising the Canadian Battalion, is to retain old and steady soldiers; and this object will in a degree be defeated by permitting premature discharges. If, however, they are admitted as indulgences, unless some restriction be imposed, the men by volunteering may, by one or two years' Canadian service, obtain an increased gratuity, not however to a large amount.

I would submit that no free discharge should be permitted until years after volunteering; and that the same number of years should be added to the period of total service which, under the warrants, give a claim to certain gratuities or to modified pension.

To the fourth question, "Will West India service be allowed to reckon towards completing the 15 years required to qualify men for the corps?" I propose to answer, that as it is allowed to reckon for men enlisted before the warrant of 1829, as three years for two, in claiming additional pay, and good-conduct pay, it will also be allowed to reckon for such men in making up the 15 years' qualification for volunteering to the battalion.

The fifth question is, "Will the men of this regiment be allowed their discharge, receiving a modified rate of pension, and in what proportion annually?"

The answer to this question will be governed in some degree by that given to the third. In the line, two men per battalion can only be allowed this indulgence annually. A similar concession after years, instead of 21 years, might perhaps be permitted to the Canadian Battalion, but only to those men who can claim this indulgence under the warrant of 1829. This indulgence may at any time be suspended.

The sixth question is, "Are non-commissioned officers to hold their respective ranks as in their former corps?"

Such non-commissioned officers as are allowed to volunteer, must be allowed to hold the rank they had obtained, with the Guards' pay allotted to them.

The proportion of non-commissioned officers to men in the line, is one serjeant to 20 men; and this proportion should be observed in permitting serjeants to volunteer into the Canadian Battalion.

The last question proposed is, "What proportion of women and children receiving rations in their present corps, will be allowed to receive them in the Royal Canadian Regiment?"

In the line, six women and their children to every 100 men are rationed at the public expense. In Veteran Battalions, 12 women to every 100 men were rationed. In the Canadian Corps, which will be composed of men of middle age, it is intended to encourage the volunteering of married men, upon the grounds that the soldiers most to be depended upon in fulfilling the intention of the formation of the corps, viz. the prevention of desertion, will be those who feel themselves comfortably located with their families. It may be expedient to extend this benefit to a greater number than in the line, or the Veterans, as it would be difficult to refuse this indulgence to those who had it prior to volunteering.

Sir Richard Jackson has further asked, whether volunteers who will only enter on condition that their present service shall be allowed to reckon towards the completion of their 20 years' service in the Canadian Battalion may be accepted. This would be entirely contrary to the conditions upon which the battalion is to be raised.

Having thus brought to your Lordship's notice the questions which have been submitted to me by Lord Hill, I have further the honour to point out to your Lordship, that the only advantages which this battalion presents to the soldier are, increased pay of 1*d.* a day, service limited to North America, and military discipline,