

ought to know something about its own business, and the officers should be the best judges as to whether they can afford the luxury of full dress uniforms as prescribed by the up-to-date military milliners. Service papers in England are discussing the complaints of army officers, who consider it an injustice to be compelled to go to the heavy expense of buying gold belts, sashes, etc., for the sake of wearing them a couple of times a year. If the complaint is well grounded in the army with how much more force does it come from the Canadian militia. The gold belts should be abolished in our service.

One of Fred. Villiers' descriptions at his Montreal lecture reminded the writer of a rather ludicrous incident in our own service. The English war correspondent was describing an action in the Japo-Chinese war. It was raining and the Chinese troops, as they fought, carefully kept their uniforms and themselves covered with their umbrellas. After the Japs had captured the commanding position a demand to surrender was made on the Chinese general. The latter said he did not object, but thought it better to stop until the rain had ceased, as to surrender he would have to parade his army and their uniforms would be spoiled.

Some years ago a proposition was made to hold a big field day near a certain big Canadian city. One of the commanding officers strenuously objected, remarking, "Why should we (the officers) go to the expense of paying the day's expenses, and if it rained have to come home and buy another sixty dollars worth of undress uniform?" An economical and serviceable undress uniform for our militia officers is an immediate necessity.

The Minister of Militia has done at once both a popular and a just act in securing another appointment for Lieut.-Col. Mattiee, formerly Brigade Major of the Fifth Military District. That Lieut.-Col. Mattiee's military qualifications demanded recognition goes almost without saying, for few officers in the service had so long and meritorious a service, or were as conversant with the regulations and laws of our service as he. Then a more painstaking

and energetic officer in camp we never had in Canada. Nor must the gallant colonel's popularity and splendid genial qualities be forgotten, for genialty and other elements tending to make the service attractive are invaluable just now, when there is so little to attract young men to the service.

Congratulations to Lieut. Colonel Gray are also in order, and these should be shared by the force, for his new appointment should be one productive of much good throughout the entire force. Lieut.-Col. Gray is a first-class officer and a popular gentleman everywhere.

Thanks to the presence in Canada of the organizer of the movement, and to the endorsement of His Excellency the Governor-General, it as though an era of development is before the Boy's Brigade movement in Canada. The movement is one deserving of every encouragement at the hands of the militia department and of the members of the force. With the school cadet corps system and the Boy's Brigade movement properly developed, we believe that the problem of recruiting for the militia would be solved and the efficiency of Canada's defensive force would be increased almost a hundred fold.

Despatches from Ottawa announce that considerable new machinery for the Dominion cartridge factory at Quebec is on its way out from England. Does this mean that the Government is going in for the manufacture of 303 ammunition for the Martini-Metford rifles? If it does, this fact would plainly indicate that the Government has decided, in spite of statements to the contrary, to proceed with the re-arming of the militia with the Martini-Metford. Meantime the force and the public would like to know just what was the result of the investigations previously made by the Government into the complaints made about the new rifle? If all of the numerous charges made were disproved, by all means let us know it.

"Major General Herbert has sailed for England," was the simple announcement in the daily papers the other day, and it set many tongues at once wagging. "Will

the general ever come back?" is the question of the day just now.

Do you know of any errors in the new militia list? If you do either report them at once to headquarters or for ever after hold your peace about them.

News of the Service.

NOTE.—Our readers are respectfully requested to contribute to this department all items of Military News affecting their own corps, districts or friends, coming under their notice. Without we are assisted in this way we cannot make this department as complete as we would desire. Remember that all the doings of every corps are of general interest throughout the entire militia force. You can mail a large package of manuscript, so long as not enclosed in an envelope, for one cent. At any rate, forward copies of your local papers with all references to your corps and your comrades. Address,

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Kingston.

KINGSTON, Feb. 25th.—On Saturday afternoon last a rumor became current on the streets that a man known as "Scotty" Ross, belonging to "A" Field Battery R.C.A., had died suddenly, in the hospital at Tete du Pont Barracks. Coupled with this statement was the startling story that the man had, on Monday 18th inst, reported himself sick, that Surgeon Major Neilson had given him medicine, and ordered him to continue on duty. On the following morning, said the report, Ross did not appear on "sick parade," and when the non-com. in charge, inquired, by the Surgeon-Major's orders, the reasons for the man's absence, he was told that Ross was in bed and unable to parade. Upon this, according to the story, the Surgeon-Major had Ross taken before the commanding officer and sentenced to ten days "C. B." On the next day Ross is said to have been detailed for guard-duty, and to have become so ill while doing sentry-go, that he had to be relieved and sent into hospital where he remained until Saturday evening, when he died.

This story was told by a number of the men of the Battery, with the utmost positiveness. On hearing it, a reporter visited the Barracks, and the story was repeated to him there by several of the men.

Surgeon Major Neilson was seen and gave an emphatic contradiction to the story as told by the men. The version of the affair was as follows:—On Monday, 18th inst., Ross was reported sick. I went to see him, found that he was suffering from rheumatism, gave him some medicine, and ordered him to continue on duty. On the next morning Ross' name was again among the names of those reported sick, but when I inspected the sick parade, he was absent. I sent the non-com. in charge of the parade to enquire about him, and on his return was told that Ross was in bed and was unable to get up. I visited him in his quarters and found him indeed too ill for duty, inflammatory rheumatism having developed. I at once had him re-