

Captain Ponton suggests a topic which should prove nearly as interesting, and give as wide a field for discussion as the notions, namely, the proper conduct of our summer camps of instruction, and we cordially accept his offer of further suggestions, and hope his letters may be the means of inducing others to present their views on a matter that indubitably requires considerable attention. At present there is a great deal of time wasted out of the too short annual training, while the men cannot be said to hanker after their drill, and the problem is to interest the men and at the same time teach them what will stick by them in case of actual service.

We publish in another column a letter on the subject of encouraging the bulk of our volunteers in target practice, which contains some good ideas, though we do not think the scheme could be successfully carried out in its entirety. The weak points are that there is no assurance that all the men will turn out; there is nothing to guarantee that when they do turn out they will receive adequate instruction and preparation before firing; and the misappropriation of ammunition is rather encouraged than made impossible. A proper system should ensure the training of every individual volunteer by a competent instructor; the individual firing of every volunteer, the non-payment and dismissal of those physically or mentally unable to succeed in becoming fair shots; and the judicious and liberal expenditure of the ammunition supplied. It is too much to expect that all this can be reached at once, but any changes made in the present system should be in this direction.

This week we publish the general orders held over from last week, detailing the subjects for examination for admission to the Royal Military College. The list will be found to be substantially the same as that of last year, with a possible 4,800 marks in the obligatory subjects and of 9,700 marks in the voluntary portion. It will be noticed that the next examination will be held at the several Military District Headquarters on the 15th June, and that applications should be made to the Adjutant-General by the first of May.

The details of the large crop of military school certificates which ripened before the Christmas holidays are also published a week late. In this connection we may refer to the letter in our correspondence columns to-day suggesting that the volunteer boards for qualifying provisional officers should be re-established. Heaven forbid. While they existed they were a sham and the laughing stock of the force, or at any rate some of them were, and all shared in the odium, and it is better that we should have one officer that knows something about his work than two perfectly ignorant. If our correspondent will advocate an increase of facilities for attending the school we will support him cordially—but a return to the old system—*non, merci*.

“Why! actually! Here’s an appointment in the reserve militia! I thought they were defunct,” was the remark with which we heard the last item in last week’s general orders greeted. How many men in the Dominion know anything about this part of our force? How many men not in the active force know what class of reserve they are in? which is their company district? or who are their company officers? We think the Department might as well relinquish the attempt to keep them on paper. If the reserves were required the whole work would have to be done over again *ab initio*, and in the meantime a certain quantity of time and paper would be saved.

In a late Jersey paper we see a State advertisement, requiring every man residing in that Island, from the age of sixteen to that of sixty, to serve in the Royal Militia of that Island, and to come forward under dire pains and penalties for failure, and register himself at the proper office. And they appear to have no choice whether they shall attend annual training or not; all that, too, is regulated by statute and each one has to serve his term. How would our reserve militia—that is all our free and independent electors—like a similar law applied here? It would be the only way to keep any check on them.

The “Dominion Cartridge Company, Limited,” have given notice in the usual way of their intention to apply for incorporation. The notice further says:

“The purposes for which incorporation is sought are the manufacture and sale of cartridges of all descriptions, torpedoes, shells and similar articles, and wrought brass work of all kinds.

“The chief place of business and manufacture of the said company to be at the village of Brownsburg, in the county of Argenteuil, in the Province of Quebec; with places of business in the cities of Montreal, in the Province of Quebec, Toronto, in the Province of Ontario, and Winnipeg, in the Province of Manitoba; with the right to establish branches at other places in the other Provinces of the Dominion.

“The intended amount of the capital stock to be one hundred thousand dollars in one thousand shares of one hundred dollars each.

“The names in full, addresses and callings of the applicants are as follows: The Honorable John Hamilton, Senator; the Honorable John J. C. Abbott, Queen’s Counsel; Andrew Allan, Merchant; Jonathan Hodgson, Merchant, and Thomas C. Brainerd, Manufacturer, all of the City of Montreal.”

It is understood that this is the company in which Mr. Howard, of “Gatling” fame, is interested. We are glad to welcome the new enterprise and heartily wish the company the utmost success, a wish in which we are sure all our readers will join.

By reference to our advertizing columns it will be seen that Messrs. E. & E. Emanuel, of Portsea, England, are the first in the field to supply Canadian militia officers with miniature copies of the medal about to be given for the recent rebellion. The house of Messrs. Emanuel has been favorably known to the army and navy for the last half century as manufacturers of naval and military decorations. As the cost of these miniature duplicates (undress copies) will depend upon the number manufactured, all officers desirous of securing them should forward their names, corps and address in full without delay. To facilitate communication we have consented to receive and forward such names as may be sent to the address of the GAZETTE.

OBITUARY.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Major Leon Charles Hamel, commanding No. 1 battery, Levis Garrison Artillery, after a few days’ painful illness. Although young in years he was an old soldier, having joined the ranks of the 17th Levis Battalion when first organized; during the Fenian raids of 1866, he served on the Niagara frontier as color-sergeant of No. 2 Co., and after passing through various grades of the service he attained the rank of Brevet Major in 1873. In 1878 he organized the First Battery of Garrison Artillery in Levis, and maintained it in a very efficient condition. During the past summer he was doing garrison duty at the Citadel, in command of two batteries, for about five months, during the absence of the troops in the North-west. He was buried with military honors on the 12th inst., the funeral proceeding from the Levis ferry to Mount Hermon cemetery. The firing party was commanded by Capt. Roy, Q. G. A. The Deputy Adjutant General and very many officers of the district were present; also strong detachments from “B” Battery, the Cavalry School and the Quebec and Levis Garrison Artillery. The intense cold—22° below zero—prevented the band from playing.