

CORRESPONDENCE.

Perennial Drills.

To the Editor *Canadian Military Gazette*.

Toronto is not the only place where the militia suffer from the perennial drill nuisance which was mentioned in one of your recent issues in connection with the Cumberland cup competitions. I have in mind another city where the militia are seldom given even a few week's rest, with the result that the weekly drills bring out less than a quarter of the real strength, and the men thus becoming used to staying away think less of absenting themselves on really important occasions than would otherwise be the case. You would, I am sure, do good service to several long-suffering corps if you would write down this practice of making a toil of what would be a pleasure if the drills were performed within a reasonable time each season, and the men left reasonably free for the rest of the year.

FATIGUE.

The following circular letter, which has been widely distributed, suggests a means of achieving the annual drill of all the militia:—

To the Commanding Officers of Rural Corps, *Canadian Militia*,

At a recent meeting of the officers of the ——— Battalion the undersigned were appointed to place before the Hon. A. R. Dickey, Minister of Militia and Defence, the views of the officers of this corps in favor of the annual drill of the whole force.

We found the Minister quite in accord with our views, and ready to adopt them if the appropriation by parliament be sufficient.

We view the matter as one almost vitally affecting the maintenance of the force, for reasons which we need not detail to officers who command rural corps, and have, therefore, experienced the disadvantages of the present system of biennial and sometimes triennial drill for those corps, and must realize that the present outlay does not produce results at all comparable with those which would be obtained with a comparatively small additional expenditure.

We therefore take the liberty of suggesting, as a means of strengthening the hands of the Minister in improving the status of the force, that you urge this matter upon your representative in the Commons, and any other members within your reach, with a view to obtaining, say \$175,000 increase in the militia appropriation, and, if the whole cannot be drilled in brigade camps a less sum, say \$150,000, to provide for regimental camps for the portion not brigaded, as a large proportion of the cost of transportation would then be saved. Or, a system of regimental camps might for a year or two be resorted to, which, by a large saving in cost of transportation, would admit of the training of a much larger quota.

As efforts will be made to reduce all estimates to the lowest possible figures, this year, we feel the more urgent need of making these representations in behalf of the Militia, for if our force is to be maintained in any degree of efficiency—recognizing, as all must, that in active service the rural corps are as useful as those of the cities—steps must be taken to overcome the injury inflicted by depriving rural corps of drill last year—an injury which ought not to be perpetuated and augmented by extending the deprivation through a second year.

Yours respectfully,

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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Halifax, N. S.

To Editor CANADIAN MILITARY GAZETTE.

SIR,—The Queen's birthday was celebrated here by the flagship "Crescent" (which had arrived in port at 11 a. m.) firing a "Royal Salute" at noon, the Royal Artillery firing a "Royal Salute" from the Saluting Battery and the remainder of the Imperial troops in Garrison lining the ramparts of the Citadel and firing the usual "Feu de Joie." The militia took no part in the celebration this year. The troops were under command of Col. Leach, V.C., Royal Engineers, General Moore being on leave in England.

We did not have long to wait for another chapter in the "Drill Shed Yarn." This chapter opens with the Government spending about \$1,000 in repairing the old shell, I should have said shell.

I will not be surprised if I see ere long a large number of the force in this district lay aside their *warlike trappings?* and seek some avocation where consistency is practised to a greater extent than it is in the militia department at head quarters.

Yours truly,

May 25th, 1895. GRAVELCRUSHER.

The first competition for places on the inter-maritime team took place at Bedford Friday 21th. The strong wind was blowing which was very tricky, making high scoring impossible. Out of 32 competitors only two reached 80 points. Black flies were very plentiful. The record was as follows:

	200	500	600	TL
Gunner J. McEachern, H.G.A.	26	27	27	80
" A. Morton, H.G.A.	25	29	26	80
Major Bishop, 83rd	24	26	29	79
Sergeant Longwell, 63rd	28	24	26	78
Gunner McAllum, H.G.A.	29	27	22	78
Staff Sergeant Harris, H.G.A.	25	25	27	77
Major Garrison, H.G.A.	24	29	24	77
Gunner Fader, H.G.A.	29	29	27	76
Private Burns, 63rd	27	24	25	76
Gunner Clarke, H.G.A.	35	38	24	75
Captain LeCain, 60th	26	22	26	74
Sergeant Melvin, H.G.A.	27	27	20	74
Sergeant Cressley, H.G.A.	27	27	20	74
Captain Adams, H.G.A.	27	29	26	73
Corporal Maxwell, H.G.A.	26	28	19	73
Captain Dimock, H.G.A.	28	27	18	73
Private McFreyer, 63rd	30	19	22	72
Sergeant Major Case, H.G.A.	28	22	20	70

British Columbia.

Victoria, May 18.—In practice at the Clover Point range on the 14th inst. Gunner A. Hunter, of the B.C.B.G.A., made a score which is the record for the range. Firing with the Martini-Henry at 200, 500 and 600 yards, he met with this unusual success:

200.	500.	600.
5155155-33	555551-34	555551-34

The total for the three ranges was thus 101 out of a "possible" 105. Gunner

Hunter has for several years been one of the crack shots of the Garrison Artillery and he distinguished himself at Ottawa in 1893, when he won the Macdougall challenge cup against all comers. When he made the score above noted there were present, shooting with him, Sergeant Gibson, of the Royal Marine Artillery; Corporals McDougall, Goodwin and Lettice, Gunners Bailey and Ross of his own corps, all of whom vouch for the correctness of the record.

The Garrison Artillery Rifle Association at the adjourned annual meeting held this week, adopted a new constitution, re-elected Lieut.-Col. Prior and Lieut. Williams president and vice president, and chose Gunner H. G. Ross as secretary. The association was only established last summer, and has not yet commenced field operations, but will do so at once.

A cricket association also was formed this week in connection with the Garrison Artillery.

Shooting men here note with regret Captain H. H. Gray, who has for years been a representative of British Columbia on the council of Dominion Rifle Association, was not re-elected at the annual meeting and Captain Gray being resident at Ottawa, has been able to render many valuable services which the other representatives of B. C., being members of parliament only at the Capital for a few months each year, were not in a position to perform.

The council of the B.C.R.A. have voted a sum of money to Gunner John C. Chamberlain, of New Westminster, to meet the expense to which he will be put in going to Montreal to join this year's team for Bisley. This is a necessity whenever a British Columbian secures a place, as the average rifleman cannot bear this heavy expense in addition to taking the necessary three months' holiday.

Lieut.-Col. Joshua Wright, of the Forty-third Battalion, Ottawa, and Capt. Garland, late of the Ninety-sixth Battalion, Port Arthur, were in Victoria this week on business in connection with hydraulic mining operations on the Fraser, of which they have the supervision. They represent an Eastern syndicate, who have been attracted to British Columbia by the reports of rich territory here, and who propose to commence what may prove extensive operations by practical tests under the personal supervision of gentlemen like these, whose experience will be the best possible test.

St. John, N. B.

The County Riflemen held their first match in Drury Range, yesterday, Queen's birthday, for the corporation cup and a prize list of \$25. There were 25 competitors present. An unusually strong gusty right wind rendered high scoring almost impossible.

Staff-Sergt. W. A. Lordly, 62nd Fusiliers secured the cup and first money prize with a score of 87 points. The following