

including 10 men per diem, besides cooks, orderlies, sick in hospital and their attendants, prisoners and men to attend them, &c.; there would not ever be more, and seldom so many of the 75 men daily available for drill and instruction, and squads for the long and short course officers and men.

Moreover, Quebec requires a large disposable force of drilled troops to steady the city militia in case of riots, and to guard the costly and valuable military stores and powder magazines in the arsenal on such occasions, which latterly have been of annual occurrence.

To complete this scheme, there should be an addition to each battery of 12 horses, to train in equitation the cavalry attending the schools, and to horse all four field guns instead of only two, as at present, with eight horses.

The addition of 12 provides for mounting the four Nos. 1 of each gun, without which the battery is not efficient.

At Kingston these horses would likewise serve for the equitation of the cadets of the Royal Military College. They have been frequently applied for by the commandant, and without them the college course is not considered complete.

At Quebec a saving would accrue by employing some of these horses to draw from the lower town forage, military stores for the magazines, &c., &c., which is an annual expense. After their purchase, their daily forage would be an insignificant amount compared with their general utility.

The enlistment of 25 men as artificers is suggested. There can be no doubt of the utility of such a course. It is only necessary to walk round that grand old Citadel of Quebec where "one's eye is arrested at every few paces by dilapidations," to see the necessity there exists for something being done. The amount of money that would be saved annually from that now expended would more than pay twice the number of men proposed. These men would be under military discipline, and would be liable to punishment for idleness. If seen standing idle, or leaning on a shovel for half an hour at a time talking politics, as is very often the case under the present system, a day's working pay stopped would soon cure that complaint. The "stitch in time" principle could be resorted to—the pointing of masonry during autumn would many a time have prevented a whole wall from falling out before the subsequent autumn, and the carting away of the stones by private individuals.

Reference is made to the able essay written by Major J. G. Holmes, "A Battery, Royal School of Gunnery, for the prize offered by the D. A. A., and also to a lecture on the "Military Aspect of Canada," delivered by Lt. Col. Strange, R.A., 1. of A., before the Royal United Service Institution, London. The latter is published in appendix No. 7 of the report, as also his report on the defence of British Columbia, and Lt. Col. Seoble, Toronto Engineers, submits a proposal for constructing the fortifications that may be required in British Columbia, by his own company of Volunteer Engineers.

The Royal Military College is mentioned in complimentary terms. This is an institution of which every Canadian ought to be proud. It is, we believe, the foundation of a regular Canadian force. What is expected of the cadets will be seen from the following sentence:—

"Should the nucleus of permanent corps be adopted, these young men will be foremost as disciplinarians and instructors; their high class education will render them valuable in any position of military or civil life; they will present an admirable tone to their surroundings as cultivated examples of order and respect for authority."

We feel satisfied that the career of those gentlemen who enter Her Majesty's regular army will be watched with interest, and when they, following up their motto, "Truth, duty, valor," receive distinction, as they must do, every Canadian will consider it an honor to himself.

The instruction of the cadets and others in the use of the torpedo for sub-marine mining is suggested, in this connection we would refer our readers to an article in our first number.

The old evil of volunteers training in different corps occupies a page of the report. It is to be regretted that the General should feel it necessary to point out that

"It is distinctly the duty of every officer of the militia, whatever may be his rank or degree, to guard against fraud or misappropriation of Government funds, from any cause whatever. I feel sure it only requires this duty to be pointed out in order to enlist the co-operation of all staff and regimental officers in vindicating the laws essential for their guidance in the proper administration of the militia service."

To be continued.

Hamilton Field Battery.

"It will be remembered that the officers and men of the Battery have looked forward with considerable eagerness for a suitable opportunity to do the annual shell practice on the ice. When the battery was in camp last summer, Capt. McMahon obtained permission from headquarters to leave the shell practice over until all the batteries met in Toronto, at the review held in September. Owing to the limited time the Hamilton Field Battery had in which to march there and return, it was found impossible to perform the shell practice at that time, and, consequently, permission was given the Commanding officer to do the practice on the ice this winter. Unfortunately the weather has been so mild that the ice has never been sufficiently strong so far to admit of the practice being done. At the usual weekly meeting of the Battery, held last night, Captain McMahon announced that further delay in waiting for the fickle weather to congelate the surface of the bay was useless, and that in the course of a week or so arrangements would be made to enable the practice to be performed in the neighborhood of the marsh or at the beach, or some where else. It is almost impossible to find a suitable land range of from 1,400 to 1,800 yards where the firing could be done with safety, owing to the numerous population in the surrounding neighborhood. It would, therefore, have been much better for the artillerymen if the shell practice could have been done on the ice. The range in the marsh is not a very good one, but it is better than none, and, doubtless, the scoring will be as good as usual with the Battery. If the present cold snap continues, it is just possible that there may yet be some ice on the bay."—*Hamilton Spectator*, Feb. 20, 1880.

Colonial Defence.

Broad Arrow, February 7th, 1880.

In a recent issue of the *Broad Arrow* we called attention to the necessity for establishing a naval arsenal and increasing our ironclad fleet in the Pacific. We then pointed out the vast extent of British interests in that part of the world, and showed in what way they are exposed to the attacks of other naval Powers, especially of Russia. With the exception of Esquimaux on the east, and Hong Kong together with Singapore on the western boundaries of that vast ocean, we have no coaling station for our fleet, nor have we any place where ships of war can be docked, repaired, and refitted. At Esquimaux there is no dock at all, nor is there, we believe accommodation for a ship of war at Singapore, while at Hong Kong the only dock fit to receive an ironclad is private property. The extent to which our naval and colonial possessions in that part of the world are exposed to the attacks of a Power able to concentrate a superior force to that which we have hitherto maintained in the Pacific is therefore sufficiently obvious, and it is gratifying to find that the Government has become alive to the necessity of fortifying the existing stations and adding to their coaling and repairing capabilities. At the same time we trust that steps will soon be taken to increase our naval force at a quarter where a counter demonstration on would, under certain conditions, be both probable and possible. It has only been of late years that either Singapore, Hong Kong, Point de Galles, St. Helena, the Cape, or the Falkland Islands have been put into anything like a state of defence, and even now the fortifications are not of a substantial and permanent character. The fact is that our Navy has hardly kept pace in numbers with the growth of our colonial possessions and commerce. On the contrary, the tendency of late years has been to build fewer and more powerful ships, so that where we once kept three ships to do a certain service we now have only one. We are, in fact, in the position of people who have coined large pieces of money, but have failed to issue pieces of small value. Although the value in circulation may have actually been increased, there is nevertheless a difficulty experienced in effecting the easier commercial transactions. The money expended yearly in shipbuilding has certainly not diminished since ironclads were introduced, but yet we find ourselves with fewer ships than before, and, practically, with none at all of the size which is necessary for the proper defence of our distant possessions.

We are now brought face to face with facts of a very serious character. Upon several occasions during late years we have pointed out the necessity of providing for the defence of our distant possessions and colonies. Just two years ago we were encouraged to believe that the India Office was about to take steps to supplement the protection afforded to the Indian coast by the East India Squadron. Since the abolition of the Indian