

the tendency manifested strongly of late to give greatly increased encouragement to rifle shooting. We feel sure that there is something yet unexplained to account for the seeming indifference to the interests of the riflemen, and trust that the publication of his letter will lead to an official explanation calculated to soothe the irritation which the tone of the letter would make it appear is felt in Charlottetown.

THE CAVALRY case elsewhere stated by Major Dunn, is a strong argument in favour of our plea for organization. Why is there such a complete absence of encouragement? The answer is, because no organized effort is made to secure it. What influence would the riflemen have without their associations, and how could the artillery accomplish anything to speak of had they not a managing body of their own choosing?

Who are these politicians of whom our correspondent writes in his criticism of the plan of the Militia? Are they not closely identified with the force? We are afraid the politicians are not to be got rid of; and such being the case, the best thing to do is to imbue them with proper ideas of the needs of the force, so that their interference may be for good.

AN ARRAY of testimonials as to the favourable standing of this paper with its readers in all parts of the Dominion was published a few weeks ago, but one more eloquent than them all has since been received. It came from a non-commissioned officer in Toronto, and was a cheque for four years' subscription in advance, sent in response to a bill for the one year just then commenced. No words were wasted—the cheque spoke for itself. Occasional incidents of this kind stand in strong contrast with the experience of a representative of this paper who undertook a few years ago to personally solicit the officers assembled in a Western brigade camp, to enrol themselves upon its subscription list. One Lieut.-Colonel being waited upon for the second time, according to appointment, said he had talked the matter over at a meeting of his officers, and, to be quite frank, they said they did not care to subscribe as the paper might not live for more than a year. He subscribed himself, however, and was altogether so polite that the pessimism—so to speak—of his officers was almost forgiven.

THE man who ought to but won't subscribe is bad enough, but what should be said of the man who subscribes and won't pay? We've got a little list of men of this kind—some rather widely known too, and some day perhaps we will exhibit it. Not a list of well intentioned folk who merely procrastinate, but dyed-in-the-wool offenders who take no notice of the accounts sent them and when at last by the relatively expensive process of a bank draft we induce them to declare themselves, make some flimsy excuse for its non-acceptance. They continue, however, to accept the paper, and no doubt are its harshest critics in their several localities.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[This paper does not necessarily share the views expressed in correspondence published in its columns, the use of which is freely granted to writers on topics of interest to the Militia.]

THE COMMISSARIAT OF 1885.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE,—In your issue of the 1st January I am sincerely sorry to read over the signature of T a slur on the commissariat department of the staff of 1885. As I was personally engaged on this staff all through that lamentable trouble I am compelled to ask your correspondent to state over his own signature *facts* proved by records of the militia department, of negligence, insubordination or any crime which can be traced to the brave boys and noble civilians who were with us during that campaign.

The fact of the publication of a slur of this sort on our militia force shows more completely that my long training under militia men of the old school is correct, as I was taught to receive and carry out orders and not comment on them.

My excuse in this case for violating a sound principle in this matter is that the contents of a portion of a communication in your journal signed by T. is quite wrong, and I can assure you, sir, that if he belonged to a corps of any respectable standing his commanding officer would be fully justified in placing him under arrest for the use of such language.

To my mind a journal of the standing of the GAZETTE should be very careful in reference to the use of its columns in matters of this sort, slurring as it were the standing of the militia of Canada. In the face of the present Indian troubles now calling the serious attention and sacrifice of our brothers in arms on the other side of the lines, we, as Canadians, here should show the best front we can, and not lower our dignity as officers in Her Majesty's service as I have noticed some do.

Yours faithfully,

GEO. P. BLISS,

Quartermaster 91st Battalion.

19th January, 1891.

THE CANADIAN CAVALRY.

EDITOR MILITIA GAZETTE: Sir,—As a reader of the GAZETTE, I was very much pleased to notice your proposal in October last for a Cavalry Association or something of that sort in order to improve the arm of the service to which I belong. Referring again to the *Broad Arrow's* comment upon the "Cavalry revival" in last week's issue, brings this subject once more before your readers, with this disadvantage to us, however, that unless some explanation is given, the general reader will be under the impression that something must be radically wrong with our Cavalry officers. In order therefore to put ourselves right in this matter, I desire to point out one or two causes for the present state of affairs, and in order to do so, I would like to commence at the bottom of what I consider goes a great way to discourage the force. Prior to 1866, provision was made in the Militia Act for paying the Militia when called out on active service, in the same ratio as were the officers and men in the British army. This would give the mounted man about 11c per day more than his Infantry brother in arms. Although this provision was made in the Act, it was never paid, and in the present Militia Act, there is no provision of the sort. Now why in all honesty should the mounted man be compelled to clean and care for his horse, his saddlery, and after this his own accoutrements, for the same pittance that pays our Infantry, who have each less than one-third of the work to do that a mounted man has. We will next take the case of escorts, of which my own corps forms a good many. First, the saddlery has to be