

The 41st Battalion, figure of merit 15.26, was the best shooting Battalion. No. 4 Company (Merrickville) 41st Battalion, figure of merit 12.24, was the best shooting Company, and Sergt. McIntyre of that Company, with a score of 51, was the best shot in Military District No. 4.

The 60th Battalion, figure of merit 14.13, was the best shooting Battalion. No. 3 Company (Franklin) 51st Battalion, figure of merit 23.06, was the best shooting Company and Sergeant W. McNaughton, No. 4 Company (Hemmingford) 51st Battalion with a score of 47, was the best shot in Military District No. 5.

No. 2 Company, Rawdon, figure of merit 12.31, was the best shooting Com, and Thos. Copping of same Company, with a score of 47, was the best shot in Military District No. 6.

The 8th Battalion, figure of merit 17.07, was the best shooting Battalion. No. 2 Company, 8th Battalion, figure of merit 21.60, was the best shooting Company, and Sergeant George Baxter, of same Company, with a score of 47, was the best shot in Military District No. 7.

The 73rd Battalion, figure of merit 17.75, was the best shooting Battalion. No. 4 Company (Black River) 73rd Battalion, figure of merit 20.52, was the best shooting Company, and Sergeant Major Burbridge, No. 7 Battery (Chatham) N.B., Brigade Garrison Artillery, with a score of 50, was the best shot in Military District No. 8.

The Cumberland Provisional Battalion, figure of merit 24.11, was the best shooting Battalion. No. 7 Company (Halifax) 66th Battalion, figure of merit 30.16, was the best shooting Company, and Private W. Colborne, No. 3 Port Philip Company, Cumberland Provisional Battalion, with a score of 49, was in the first return sent to head quarters reported the best shot in Military District No. 9; but since the publication in General Orders of the names of prize-winners, an amended return has been received from the Acting Deputy Adjutant General, Military District No. 9, intimating that Sergeant Connors, No. 4 Company, 63rd "Halifax" Battalion of Rifles, stands highest, with a score of 51.

The 1st Battalion Rifles, figure of merit 20.98, was the best shooting Battalion. No. 4 Company (Richmond) 1st Battalion Rifles, figure of merit 27.13, was the best shooting Company, and Private J. Ferguson, with a score of 49 was the best shot in the Grand Trunk Brigade.

The Province of New Brunswick, figure of merit 14.57, was the best shooting Province, Military District No. 8, figure of merit 14.57, the best shooting District. The Cumberland Provisional Battalion, Military District No. 9, figure of merit 24.11, the best shooting Battalion. No. 7 Company, 66th Battalion, in Military District No. 9, figure of merit 30.16, the best shooting Company, and Private John Parks, No. 6 Company, 31st Battalion, in Military District No. 2, who made 51 marks out of a possible figure of 60, scoring at 600 yards range 18 marks out of a possible figure of 20, and at the 200 yards range 15 marks, the best shot in the Active Militia of the Dominion at the Annual Drill of 1871-72. Private John Parks, 31st Battalion thus winning in addition to the Company, Battalion and District prizes, the Adjutant General's prize of a silver medal with \$50.

MILITARY SCHOOLS.

Since the formation of Military Schools in 1864, 6,285 certificates of qualification in drill have been obtained by the large number of Cadets who have passed through these Schools.

At present there are eight schools of Military Instruction authorized, six for Infantry drill, and two schools of Gunnery, the organization of the latter has been detailed in the report on the artillery; there are also 2 Riding Schools for the instruction of Cavalry, one at Kingston, the other at Quebec, as branches of Military Schools at those places.

On the 1st of February, the following number of cadets were attending the Infantry Schools, at Toronto, thirty-five; at Kingston, twenty six; at Quebec, forty-three; at Montreal, twenty-six; at Fredericton, forty-four; at Halifax, fifteen; being a total of 185. The Gunnery Schools as already stated are nearly full there being at present about 280 of all ranks, acquiring a knowledge of Artillery Exercises in A. and B. Batteries. The Infantry Schools are in operation for six months, and the two Cavalry Riding Schools for three during the winter Season, the Artillery Schools for the whole year.

The experience of the past summer has clearly demonstrated the desirability of encouraging all officers and non-commissioned officers to attend the military schools to learn their military duties, and qualify for their respective posts. Unless officers have a knowledge of their duties, it is impossible they can know how to lead or train their men.

There are many excellent officers in the Canadian Militia, indeed I do not believe that the Transport and Commissariat duties required, could have been better performed than they were at the various Camps of Exercise last summer, by Officers of the Canadian Militia; the last expedition to Manitoba has given additional proof of their capacity in this respect also, but generally, as might be expected, from lack of opportunity to acquire the same, in a proper knowledge of Regimental Drill, of Camp Duties, and Interior Economy, they are very deficient.

If however, Regimental Officers and non-commissioned officers would attend the Military Schools in winter, to qualify in Drill, &c., they would come to the "Camp of Exercise" better prepared to train and discipline their men, and thus the Militia of the Dominion would yearly improve, and increase greatly in efficiency.

The system of allowing officers to come up for drill examination (without passing which satisfactorily they cannot receive commissions or be confirmed in their commands) at the time of the Annual Camps, is very objectionable, such examinations being then from force of circumstances generally of a very superficial character, moreover these examinations at the time of the Annual Drill interfere greatly with the routine of duties; it would be much more satisfactory therefore, if in future all officers should pass such examinations at a Military School where they could be properly instructed and examined, the usual gratuity of \$50 being granted them on obtaining their second class certificates.

ARMS CLOTHING AND STORES.

The present condition of the Militia De-

partment with regard to arms, clothing and stores, will be seen on reference to the Reports of Lieut.-Colonel W. Powell, Deputy Adjutant General of Militia, and Lieut.-Colonel T. Wily, Director of Stores, &c., both of which will be found in the Appendix.

40,670 Snider Rifles have been issued and are now in possession of the respective corps. There are 6,000 new Snider Rifles in the Reserve Stores, and steps are being taken to procure a supply of the most approved description of Rifles.

A large number of Snider Carbines are being received from the Imperial Arsenals in England for the use of the Cavalry, to replace the present inferior weapon (viz: the Spencer Carbine) in possession. There is a sufficient quantity of Snider Ball Ammunition in the various Magazine to meet the ordinary expenditure of the whole of the Active Militia for at least three or four years.

The Department has now obtained a supply of Tents that will suffice for the wants of Active Militia in this respect at the time of the Annual Camps of Exercise, but the supply of other articles of Camp Equipage, also Blankets, Knapsacks, Haversacks, Accoutrements, &c., &c., is far short of what is required; I therefore recommend that steps be taken to acquire the necessary supply, so that every Military District may in respect of stores and equipment, be complete in itself, and thus the Active Militia in every Province would be enabled whenever required for Actual Service, to turn out at a moment's notice properly equipped.

Lieut.-Colonel Wily's Report shows the amount of clothing in store on the 31st December last, and Lieut.-Colonel Powell's Report shows the number of articles purchased this year, all of which will be available as circumstances may require. Owing to the organization of certain corps in the Province of Manitoba, and in view of a similar provision for British Columbia, it will be necessary to increase somewhat the amount of the estimate for clothing for the next financial year, so that the new corps may be clothed and the necessary reserve formed to replace the annual wear of clothing in possession of existing corps, and in connection with this subject, I have to point out that for "Military reasons" it is desirable that the color and description of the uniform worn by the Militia of Canada, should at all times correspond (according to the respective arms) closely to that used in Her Majesty's Regular Army.

A heavy drain upon the limited stores of the Militia Department has been caused by the two expeditions to Manitoba, and the extension of the Militia system to that Province, this together with the maintenance now of several embodied corps in the Dominion necessarily requires an increased supply of Military Stores.

MEDICAL REGULATIONS.

With the view of establishing uniformity of system in the Medical arrangements at the time of the annual drill last summer, and checking many irregularities on this point which have occurred in previous years, a number of small portable Medicine Boxes or Field Companions were obtained, sufficient to admit of the issue of one to every Battalion performing annual drill in a Camp of Exercise.

These boxes merely contained such simple and ordinary remedies as might be required for a few days, it being the duty of