

FROM MONTREAL.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Volunteer matters are to use a stale phrase flat, inaction and inactivity are general, and a few companies keep up a regular weekly drill, but the majority are doing nothing in the way of drill. A good scare is what is required to show we have volunteers at all, the French regiments being about the only ones still at it, and really they deserve all praise for their pertinacity, under that very able drill instructor Capt. Labranche, one of the best instructors in the Province. The Montignards have been drilling all winter under the command of Capt. Simpson; they appear to be well uniformed and accoutred, if we except their want of fur caps, a want that has been much felt during the long and cold winter. The school house in St. Jean Baptiste Village where they drill is too small for company movement and too low for manual exercise, but under all circumstances and with these disadvantages they have achieved great progress in drill. The company is well got up, a fine lot of sturdy fellows, brimful of patriotism and a credit to their commander and one of the best companies in Colonel D'Orsennes' district.

In regard to the Military School the country I think would be benefited, in more than one way, if the payment of Fifty Dollars to passed Cadets were to be abolished; we would then have a more select lot, and men more calculated to ensure that respect for authority so necessary in commanding officers. Few I think would object to this course, and the army of loafers and poor devils out of a berth who have nothing to do and can get nothing to do, and to whom \$50 is a godsend, who crowd in ready to "bleed (for) their country" would be materially diminished. Then let the instruction be lengthened to three months duration, let the cadets undertake and perform the duties from a soldier to a captain, mount guard, live in barracks, &c., and a passed cadet will then mean one who is a true soldier and perfect in the duties of such. It is folly to suppose that we can make an officer of a man in six weeks.

A contemporary understands that notwithstanding the rumors once afloat to the contrary, the headquarters of the military department in Canada will be removed to Quebec as soon as the navigation opens. The lease of the "Donagana" has been formally surrendered, and that settles the question. The houses on either side of it have been taken up for the temporary accommodation of some of the minor departments of the officers of the Royal Brigade, prior to their departure in June or July.

Prince Arthur appeared in the costume of a Cavalier of the time of Charles the Second, at the Fancy Dress Entertainment at the Victoria rink on Tuesday. The dress consisted of satin, of a bluish gray, buff boots turned down below the knee, and a short cloak, black moustache and pointed beard,

also flowing sable curls that gave additional expression to the face, he wore the well known Cavalier hat and feather. Colonel Martindale wore a costume something similar, and Colonel Lord A. Russell was attired in Indian costume. The Prince skated round chiefly with Miss King and Miss Gordon and chatted freely with his acquaintances in the rink. H. R. H. is said to have much improved in skating, but he certainly requires considerably more practice before he obtains that graceful poetry of motion that adds such a charm to a proficient skater.

We are in a state of puddle and water, the streets are in a frightful state and outdoor locomotion sets at defiance rubbers or overalls.

The shinplaster scheme gets a good deal of abuse from a number here, and they condemn it without suggesting any other remedy for what is called the "silver nuisance."

B.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—As this is my first communication to any newspaper since my connection with the Volunteer Force, now of some years standing, and without any egotism on my part I feel that the service has not lost by the connection, therefore, I will thank you to allow me a little space in your valuable REVIEW, which being the organ of the Volunteers, I may bring to the notice of those interested a fact which appears to me unfair and unjust, it is simply this: A few years ago a sergeant, late of H.M. Infantry and, I believe, only of a short period as such, was taken on the staff of the then Adjutant General of this Province (now D.A.G. of this District) as Copying Clerk, in the office; I noticed some time ago he was gazetted as Lieut.-Col. of the 71st York Battalion, with permanent rank. Now, Mr. Editor, why should he who has not passed through any Military School, or been examined before a competent board of officers, receive more consideration than gentlemen who know and do their duty well, and can be depended upon in any emergency, and who have always been faithful to every trust committed to them. I, for one, do not understand or appreciate this favouritising, if it goes on the Force will be minus some of the best officers soon. Why give the Lt.-Col. of the 71st, York Battalion, permanent rank, when other meritorious officers who know their duties equally as well, if not better, and who command, I apprehend, quite as much respect, only "provisional rank?" I can hear echo answer, oh! he was a sergeant in H.M. regular service; if he was it does not follow he is competent to command, it requires more than a mere smattering of drill to command a regiment and keep it intact and well disciplined both in drill and interior economy; with all due deference to the regular service, I have scores of non-commissioned officers who could barely drill a squad on the other hand, I have known many esti-

mable and deserving men, yet, I cannot see the justice in giving a man precedence in rank merely because he has been a sergeant in the regular service. I really think it is unjust that a stranger, and he only a non-commissioned officer, should have this mushroom growth, and made senior to officers who have clung to the service throughout evil as well as good report.

A LOYAL VOLUNTEER.

TRANSPORT OF TROOPS TO RED RIVER.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—In a former communication I suggested the advisability of constructing sectional steamers to facilitate the conveyance of troops to the Red River territory. An English paper published in London, contains an account of the progress of the expedition into the interior of Africa under Sir Samuel Baker, which states that the sectional steamers built by Mr. Samuda, of Blackwall, were safely packed on the backs of camels and were en route to their destination accompanied by 1000 men, the service to be performed being infinitely more difficult than that required to be done by us. As bearing on the question at issue you will, no doubt, see the applicability of my former suggestion. Whether such vessels are in process of construction or not for the present emergency I have no means of knowing, if not, I would suggest, while there is yet time, the advisability of constructing small steam launches of wood as attached to her Majesty's ships, and to be used for the purpose of towing; the boats referred to in the newspapers, as being built for facilitating the transport of troops via Fort William, and which, if commenced at once, could be easily got ready before the opening of navigation. To give you and all parties interested an idea of the value of such steam launches for this service, I give you a statement of the particulars of such a vessel, viz:—Length 36 feet, breadth of beam 6ft. 6in., depth of hold 8ft. 10in., draft of water 2ft. 6in., weight of hull 20 cwt., diameter of screw 2ft. 4in., pitch 4ft. 3in., diameter of cylinder 8in., diameter of boiler 2ft. 4in., height 5ft., vertical tubes, internal fire box, revolution of engine 230, speed of boat 9 miles per hour, pressure of steam 100 lbs., mean pressure on piston 70 lbs., power indicated, 30 horse, equal to the continuous efforts in towing or rowing of over 200 men, and that with the easy labour of one man. The boiler will weigh 15 cwt., the engine, screw and shaft 14 cwt., or less than 1½ tons. These detached parts could be fitted in the boat and set to work within six hours after arriving at the navigable water; there cannot be a doubt of the feasibility of this scheme as it has been done over and over again.

The advantages cannot be overrated as rowing is out of the question if harassed by an enemy on shore or in any case is not