

"DEAR SIR,—With reference to your enquiry about my extra pay while on duty at the station, I have to say that I practically receive double the pay, over and above all allowances, when on ordinary pay. There are several precedents of this recognition by the Imperial authorities, that owing to the high price of everything in the province, some compensation should be made for the additional expenses, unavoidably incurred by officers on duty. I think I am correct in stating, that all the officers of the Imperial service, who have visited Esquimalt on duty, have invariably been granted extra pay."

Now, sir, this is from an Imperial officer who was on duty at Esquimalt for a long time. I may state that even the banks agree that their officers should have more. Here is a letter from the manager of the Bank of British North America, in Victoria:

"DEAR SIR,—In answer to your letter of the 1st instant, I would inform you that an allowance pay, \$500 per annum, is made to our clerks while serving the bank in Victoria, to compensate them for the additional cost of living here, as compared with Ontario and Quebec."

Now, when you take that into consideration, and also the fact that the post office officials who are in the pay of this Government at the present time in British Columbia, are allowed, I think, 25 per cent. extra for provisional allowances, and also taking into consideration the fact that the Government have agreed to give the gunners of "C" battery an extra 25 per cent. advance on their wages—their wages reaching the enormous sum of 50 cents a day—I think that when you look at all these facts, you must agree that if it is necessary for the gunners to have that increase, it must be far more necessary for the officers to have an increase. I may say that the officers find that the heavy expense of living is a great hardship at the present time, owing to their not having proper quarters. It must be remembered that they are brought into contact with officers in the Imperial service, and they have to keep up a certain appearance; and I do not think any hon. gentleman in this House would for a moment expect an officer of Canada to behave otherwise, or live differently, from any other officer of any other country. I will not take the time of the house in stating what buildings I think are necessary to be put up by the Minister of Militia, because I believe that after he has read the reports again he will do what is right. But I think he ought to give the men what exactly they are entitled to, nothing more and nothing less. I have asked him before, I am asking him now, and I shall continue to ask until he either gives me a very good reason why he should not give an extra allowance, or else yield to our reasonable request.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—I think the only difficulty between my hon. friend and myself is that he fancies, possibly, that I may take a little more time than I should in carrying out my promises, but it is certainly my intention to carry out all the promises I have made to the hon. gentleman. With reference to the barracks, it is true that the quarters of the battery at present are not what I should like them to be. As the hon. gentleman stated, I went to Victoria and selected a site, and I gave orders to commence building the huts. The estimates which the Minister of Public Works will bring down will show that I never considered that what had been done was all that we intended to do so far as "C" battery is concerned. The hon. gentleman speaks of the expense of living being far greater in Victoria than in Ontario or Quebec. Well, that is an evil which is being cured with the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, by means of which communication is easily had with the east. The difference in the expenses are being reduced every day. I think it would be a very invidious distinction to make any difference in the pay between the batteries in the Dominion of Canada. The principle upon which all the military forces are organized is that the same pay shall be given to all members of the force of equal grade. The hon. gentleman states that we have made a difference in so far as the rank and file are concerned. We made this difference, that if they carried out their term of engagement for three years they should receive at the end of the period a bonus of 10 cents per head in addition to the ordinary payment, or 60 cents. At that time it was considered an inducement to get some members of the other batteries who enlisted in "C" battery, to go out to British Columbia. I was very glad indeed to see how well "C" battery was received by all the members of our military force in British Columbia. They were treated as comrades, and the good feeling shown them has increased ever since they have been serving with the ordinary militia in British Columbia. I think when the plan which is contemplated is carried out, the hon. gentleman will agree that we desire to treat "C" battery in Victoria fully as well as any other battery in Canada. I know very well that they have to put up with very many inconveniences, but the new barracks will be so perfect that I hope it will make them forget the little inconveniences which they have suffered. I am sure the hon. gentleman has shown a great deal of interest, he has spoken to me time and again about the matter, and I think he will find that what I have promised to do for "C" battery will be fully carried out.

LT.-COL. PRIOR—The Minister misunderstood me when he supposed that I said his promises had been broken. I said that his promises were made to be broken—there is a great deal of difference. In regard to the difference in the cost of living, I may state that although the hon.

gentleman says that the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway brings down the prices, Mr. Smith, the Deputy Minister of Marine, told me, after he had taken a trip down the coast to San Francisco, that he had come to the conclusion that Victoria was one of the dearest places to live in on the whole Pacific coast. They are higher, and they will continue to be higher.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—In regard to supplies, we find that the prices in the contracts for supplies in British Columbia are about the same as in other districts. I do not know whether the contractor was so anxious to supply "C" battery that he reduced his prices, but the contracts are at about the same prices as in other districts.

MR. CHISHOLM—I endorse everything that has been said by my colleague from British Columbia (Mr. Prior), in regard to the higher cost of living in British Columbia. I desire to enquire whether it is the intention of the government to do this year something towards fortifying the City of Vancouver, which is the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the port of landing of the Chinese steamers.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON—I can only answer the hon. gentleman, as I have already replied to another hon. gentleman, that the question of defence is now being studied by a commission that has been appointed, and the government of Canada and the Imperial government have been in communication in regard to the same question. I am not in a position to give the hon. gentleman any further information at present.

Regimental News.

The Commandment of the Royal School of Infantry with his permanent and attached officers dined at Government House, Fredericton, on the 15th inst., and were received by His Honor Sir Leonard and Lady Tilley, and by their genial classmate, Lieut. Tilley of the Artillery. His Honor very pleasingly referred to his experience as a militia officer under the former system, contrasting the difficulties then to be met and overcome, with the advantages of the present day. The major of the 94th, when speaking for the attached officers and returning thanks for the honor, did not forget to draw attention to the necessity for a short course in this school for all officers of the Lower Provinces who intend to be useful in their battalions. He also spoke in very complimentary terms of the citizens of Fredericton for both he and his brother officers had received frequent tokens of friendship and hospitality.

The Allan Rifle Association.

The annual meeting of the Allan Rifle Association was held last Friday evening at the Clifton House. The secretary-treasurer's report being read was received and adopted, which showed the association with enough funds on hand to start this season's shooting on a solid basis, while the outlook for membership promises to far exceed any previous year. The officers who have kindly accepted positions in the association are men who take a deep interest in rifle shooting and are also workers when there is anything to be done. The association has decided to classify all its members as to their shooting qualities, which is bound to give more satisfaction than making every man shoot in the one class. The association will be glad to hear from sister associations in reference to telegraphic matches for the coming season; all communications addressed to the secretary, 77 Colborne street, will be promptly answered and booked in rotation as received.

The association will start practice at an early date, when scores will be duly published.

Following are the names of officers for the season of 1889: Honorary president, Lieut.-Col. Allan; president, Capt. W. Geo. Mutton; vice-president, Mr. John F. Crean; secretary-treasurer, Mr. G. M. Donnelly; committee, Messrs. Wm. Harp, A. D. Crooks and E. P. McNeil; auditor, Mr. John Knifton.

66th Princess Louise Fusiliers.

The officers of the Fusiliers held their annual meeting last week and the following committees were appointed:

Regimental—Major Weston, Paymaster Spike and Lieut. Hale.

Band—Captains Kenny and Doull and Lieut. Ritchie.

Investigating—Captains Menger, Whitman and King.

Mess—Surgeon Tobin, Captains Chipman and Black and Lieut. Ritchie.

Rifle—Captains Brown, Chipman and Fishwick.

It was unanimously agreed that the whole of the officers' pay should go into the regimental funds, and provision was made for the different regimental services, including the band, and \$175 towards the Regimental Rifle Association.

Major Humphrey has assumed command and is actively engaged in re-enrolling the regiment.

Major Weston has a class for instruction of the officers in the new drill that meets each week, and the non. com. officers are being drilled two nights each week by the regimental instructor.