

actual service. I know that the feeling of the country is that when a volunteer is injured in actual service he should be recompensed or indemnified in some way. Of course we cannot expect to imitate the liberal proportions of the pension list of our neighbours to the south. We have not a big surplus at our disposal to do it, but we have enough money to treat our volunteer forces fairly and not stingily. These claims are founded in equity, and I think the Minister would be supported by both sides of the House if he would give a little more generous interpretation to the law and to his powers in this respect than he has been in the habit of doing.

MR. MULOCK. I do not think that the portion of the report of the medical officer read by the Minister of Militia entirely covers the case.

SIR AAOLPHE CARON. I only read an extract.

MR. MULOCK. That may be. I cannot see that the widow and children would be disentitled to compensation merely because you cannot prove that the disability was brought about by the campaign in the North-West. There is the fact that the man was on duty, and it is immaterial, as far as this question is concerned, whether this infirmity was brought on by service in the North-West or by service elsewhere. He was in the service at the time he was cut down. Therefore his case is entirely one entitling him to consideration at the hands of the country, quite irrespective of whether you can prove that his disease originated in the North-West or not.

SIR ADOLPHE CARON. He was entitled only to pay for 40 days. That would not amount to much.

MR. MULOCK. Here we have a case where a man in the service of the country and actually wearing Her Majesty's uniform at the time he is cut down by disease and ultimately dies, and leaves his family at the mercy of the country. Is there any technicality that can be allowed to intervene to prevent the country doing its duty under such circumstances?

MR. AMYOT. I entirely agree with the request that some help should be given to the widow of this man. The soldiers in that campaign were submitted to great hardship, and I think as a country we should have some gratitude for those who exposed their lives under such circumstances. I hope and I believe that the case should be treated liberally. If we have nothing in the law to enable us to do justice to this widow we should change the law. It is time yet, as it is always time to render justice.

The motion for papers was then agreed to.

Toronto.

THE militia talk of the town is the Ontario Artillery Association prize list and the resolutions passed. Will the authorities meet the association half way by providing sufficient ammunition to enable all combatant officers to fire? Heretofore only two officers per battery have been permitted to fire four rounds in each, the first being a sighting shot for the whole battery. No mention is made whether the officers' cup is open to the officers of the Permanent Corps.

Will the authorities encourage garrison artillery by increasing their strength at Toronto, or elsewhere? The association has evidently taken for granted that the Toronto Garrison Battery is *non est*, as no prize is offered to it.

That in connection with the School of Artillery at Kingston is a garrison battery, but prizes have been given for firing *with a field gun*, and no prize has been allotted for drivers at the school. Drivers there are, but I suppose the association does not feel inclined to give where only a few drivers are concerned. Should a whole field battery be established at the school, no doubt the mounted men there will be offered something.

I would like to see the rifle association take in hand and offer some inducement for men to go up and qualify at an infantry school. Probably this does not come within the scope of their objects—but as the Ontario Rifle Association has no objects mentioned in its constitution, sheepshearing or anything else might be considered worthy subjects for which prizes should be awarded.

The prize list represents \$1014 in cups and cash. Where the money is to come from to foot this bill the association best knows itself, but as a motion was passed urging upon artillery officers the necessity of securing as many subscribers to the fund as possible, I presume the committee intend working their friends for all they are worth. The City Council of Toronto has promised them a grant I hear, and probably other places will follow suit—that is if egged in by the committee or artillery officers. By hard work \$1,500 might be raised during the year, which, after all expenses are paid, ought still to leave a balance to their credit.

THE BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE R. M. C.

"A retired officer, who is alive," has written a letter upon the inaccuracies of the Militia List, 1888. The Militia List, 1888, issued at the back end of February or March, is inaccurate before it sees the light of day. Here is April, and if the daily press is right, the Commandant of D School is also D.A.G. of No. 1 District. It will be April, 1889, before we see this corrected in the list. Why not issue it semi-annually?

On page 16, we find in glowing type "Royal Military College of Canada" figuring. I do not know the R. M. C. of Canada. If you read the act governing the college, its name there is plain "Royal Military College." Nothing more, nothing less. See R. S. of Canada, 1886, cap. 42.

The Militia Regulations tell us of an independent inspection by a Board of Visitors appointed once a year and reporting to the Minister. "Such board will not be a permanent board, but will consist of five members of whom three shall be members of the militia staff, not less than two to retire annually." First and foremost how often do you see that report, if made, in print?

Secondly, "it will not be a permanent corps." The devil it won't, but it is. Here is the Board as given in the report, 1887:—Col. W. Powell, Col. C. S. Gzowski, Lt.-Col. Maunsell, Lt.-Col. Duchesnay and Lt.-Col. Montzambert.

Colonel Maunsell has to neglect his duties as D.A.G. of No. 8 District and as Commandant of the R. S. I.; he has further to travel from Fredericton, N. B., to Kingston. Colonel Duchesnay, his duties as D.A.G. of No. 7 District, and to travel from Quebec. Colonel Montzambert, his duties as Commandant of the Artillery School at Quebec.

In 1886, the Board of Visitors consisted of the same officers, and in 1888 the board was—well the same board as in 1886 and in 1887. What was the board prior to these three years?

Thirdly, "three of whom shall be members of the militia staff." In the Militia List we find the names of the staff of the militia, and there we come across the names of Colonel Gzowski, staff officer to Engineer Force; Colonel Powell, Adjutant-General; Colonel Montzambert, Assistant Inspector of Artillery; Colonel Maunsell, D.A.G. of No. 8 District, and Col. Duchesnay, D.A.G. of No. 7 District. Surely these are all members of the Militia Staff.

Fourthly, "not less than two to retire annually." In 1885, none of these five officers retired, nor in 1886, nor in 1887—what will they do in 1888? It is leap year, you know, and the authorities may take a freak and endeavour to carry out the Regulations once in every four years.

This board of visitors has been in existence as at present constituted for three years. The whole board are members of the Militia Staff and none have been retired annually—no not even tri-ennially! This is one way of carrying out your own regulations.

On page 36 we find the "stations of officers" of the permanent corps. There we find that Paymaster W. W. Strange is stationed at Quebec with what is called B Battery. I had an idea Paymaster Strange lived at Kingston, perhaps I am wrong. "J. D. Roche" is evidently not stationed anywhere, although his name is given as a lieutenant in the Infantry School Corps.

LINCH-PIN.

Montreal.

VOLUNTEERING has taken a new turn in Montreal, as witness the following "orders of the day," issued last week by the D.A.G., co-operating with the *Star* newspaper to protect the lives, limbs and other property of the citizens imperilled by the civic road department's neglect of its trust:

"CITIZENS:—The volunteer pick brigade will, when the bugle calls, take up position on the south side St. James street, from St. John street down towards McGill street. The men are to work six feet apart, and when tired please leave the pick in the *Star* office."

LIEUT.-COL. STRAUBENZIE, foreman.

Many prominent citizens appeared in answer to the above order with pick and shovel, and the action thus taken had the desired effect of rousing the road department.

VICTORIA RIFLES.

There is considerable activity in the Quartermaster's department of the Vics at present, caused by the fitting out of the new men as they are elected. Each of the six companies, however, having its own clothing closet, locker, shelf and rack, the confusion usually attendant on these occasions is reduced to a minimum. This department is running in excellent order and has a military look from end to end.

The "collar-box" forage cap now in use, the only merit of which appears to be its total unsuitability for a head covering—or anything else—will soon be on the retired list, and replaced by the smart and useful article known as the "service cap."

There is a rumour here that the 8th Royal Rifles, of Quebec, contemplate making a trip to Montreal for the purpose of taking part in the review which is talked of for the Queen's Birthday. There are quite a number of old members of that fine regiment to be found in the ranks of the Victorias who would be ready to welcome their former comrades should the rumour prove to have a solid foundation.

The first match of a second series of "spoon" shoots took place last Saturday with a list of 49 entries. Ranges for the six matches are fixed at 200 and 500 yards, 5 shots each range. Colour-Sergt. McCrae, of the P. W. Rifles, was the winner with 47 points. Four other competitors got over the average of inners in the following order: Sergt.-Major Rodden and Staff-Sergt. Brocklesby, Victorias, each 45 points; Lieut.-Col. Bond, P. W. Rifles, 42; and Staff-Sergt. Shaw, Victorias 41. These competitions are open to members of all corps.

BUSBY.

Correspondence.

[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 DISPOSITION OF COMMAND PAY.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

SIR,—In a recent issue you asked for suggestions as to the disposal of what is known as "command pay." How is this? That all c.o.'s of corps that have annual or bi-annual meetings should state to the officers present at those meetings how the money has been expended, and c.o.'s. of corps that don't have any meeting at all should be at once ordered to report to head-quarters, showing the disposition of the money—say for last five years.

SADDLE AND SABLE.

QUALIFICATION OF PERMANENT CORPS OFFICERS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Militia Gazette.

SIR,—One of your correspondents recently said that the D.A.G.'s were doing everything to make unqualified officers attend schools of instruction, otherwise the Regulations would be put into force. The D.A.G.'s are quite right in thus carrying out the regulations, but if an example were set us by the permanent corps, their efforts would have greater effect. I notice in the School of Mounted Infantry that none of the subaltern officers are qualified, although appointed in 1885. In the Cavalry School, I understand also that the subs there are not holders of long course certificates, and that some officers in the Artillery and Infantry Schools are in the same position. I presume that these officers have, like the militia, one year's time allowed them in which to qualify, otherwise removal as having failed to qualify should follow. I can hardly fancy a militia officer being anxious to attend a school having no properly qualified officers, it would look like "the blind leading the blind"; however, they always manage to have good instructors in their n.c.o.'s. The Commandant of the Military College, in his last report, refers to the long course officers, and says that four of them failed to qualify. There are those who say that the greater percentage of this number was made up of provisional permanent corps officers. If that is so, Mr. Editor, after the present senior officers have been removed by death, promotion or otherwise, with what class of officers will these corps be officered? Perhaps the existence of unqualified officers was one of the reasons for the General recommending the appointment of more officers. It is most important for the militia that permanent officers should be above reproach in every respect.

March 10th, 1888.

FOUGASS.

Queries and Replies.

THE VERBAL ADDRESS OF LIEUTENANTS.

Q. (1.) How should an officer under the rank of captain be addressed, whether in uniform or not? (2.) Are staff-sergeants entitled to wear the black band on their caps (the droop peak cap)? (3.) Are staff-sergeants entitled to wear the numerals and grenade on their caps, or can they wear both, or either one of them singly, that is either the numerals alone or the grenade alone?

A MEMBER OF THE 62ND FUSILIERS.

St. John, N.B., 6th April, 1888.

A. (1.) As "Mr." So-and-so. Questions 2 and 3 relate to matters of regimental concern only, and as we are not familiar with the adopted rules of the regiment it is not in our power to answer them.—ED.