

in view of the long time many men have been serving without any advancement or prospect of it."

Difficulty is still experienced in maintaining the strength of C Battery, at Esquimalt, B.C., the rate of pay for labour in that province being so much greater than the government allowance to the Battery. Lt.-Col. Holmes deals with the question of pay in his report, and also joins in the advocacy of a pension system. He says:—

"Another matter requiring action is the subject of pensions, to both officers and men. Surely the men serving their country in the Permanent Corps are as deserving of this as their comrades in the Mounted Police, especially as their rates of pay are so much smaller. The successful working of these corps depends in a great measure on the non-commissioned officers, and good ones can only be made after considerable service, and unless these men can look forward to some means of subsistence (however small) after spending their best years in the service, they will not remain in it. The pay of the gunners should, in my opinion, be increased to at least as much as is paid to privates in the United States army."

"In conclusion, it seems to me that to-day's the most suitable to review the past three years. On the 10th of November, 1887 (just three years ago), C Battery, consisting of 94 non-commissioned officers and men, landed in Victoria.

"Let me briefly state what has become of them:—Completed 3 years and discharged, 40; discharged by purchase 13; discharged as unsuitable, 5; discharged invalided, 2; deaths, 2; deserted, 22; re-engaged, 10—total, 94.

"Let me again urge the following previous recommendations:—

"1st. Non-commissioned officers and men to receive their extra ten cents per diem, after the first year's service, as part of their daily pay, keeping back the first year only until expiration of service.

"2nd. Sending out a draft annually to fill vacancies. It is just as cheap to send 20 men each year as to send 60 every third. It must be remembered that guard duty and other work must be done whether the Battery be full or not, and 20 men short the first year and 40 the second, throws too much work on those remaining, rendering them justly dissatisfied, and with dissatisfied men a proper discipline cannot be maintained."

THE INFANTRY SCHOOLS AND CORPS.

Lt.-Col. John B. Taylor, Commandant of the Royal School of Mounted Infantry, Winnipeg, reports an attendance of 11 officers and 85 non-commissioned officers and men for instruction during the year—a considerable increase which he instances as evidence that the school is advancing in usefulness. Increasing difficulty is found in keeping the corps up to the authorized strength, owing to the high wages labour commands in that part of the country. No less than 19 members purchased their discharge during the year, paying an average of \$25 each, and of those whose terms expired only four re-enlisted. Col. Taylor repeats his plea of last year for a system of pensions, so that the trained men would have some inducement to remain with the corps. A recommendation of a similar nature is that increased pay should be allowed the Colour-Sergeants, on account of their exceptionally onerous duties, this being an endorsement of the recommendation made last year by the Commandant of A Company, I. S. C. Col. Taylor also expresses satisfaction with the quality of the clothing.

Lt.-Col. G. J. Maunsell has a very cheerful report to make on A Company, Infantry School Corps, and the Royal School of Infantry at Fredericton, N. B. Concerning recruiting, he says: "When a captain of a company pays attention to each individual man, on parade, at the musketry range, and in the barrack room, and when he is backed by zealous and efficient subalterns and non-commissioned officers—

when, moreover, the soldier is taught by experience that there is a brighter side of the picture than mere punishment, viz., rewards for the well conducted soldier—then, and then only, is the task rendered easy of keeping the ranks filled with men of the best class. Hence our experiencing no difficulty in recruiting to supply vacancies however caused." Col. Maunsell makes the following among other recommendations:—

"That non-commissioned officers and men married with leave, and their families, be placed on the same footing, as regards the issue of rations, as those in Her Majesty's Regular Army.

"As to the desirability of improving the position of the Colour Sergeant of each company, Infantry School Corps, he (the Colour Sergeant) being considered in our regulations for rank and pay as a company sergeant, whereas in the standing orders of the corps the important duties of a Colour Sergeant (the company, too, being large) are required of him.

"Referring to paragraph 1064, Regulations and Orders, 1887, I am of opinion it is desirable that the same privilege now allowed to Engineers be extended to Infantry, viz., that officers and non-commissioned officers should, from time to time, after original qualification at a School of Infantry, be allowed to take special 'Courses' at the same schools, in order to ensure their knowledge of drill and discipline being kept up. In view of biennial drill in country corps (Infantry), the knowledge acquired in one 'Short Course,' however carefully instructed therein, is too often lost sight of as time goes on, owing to the want of practical experience.

"A rule lately introduced into the New South Wales Permanent Force may, I think, be adopted with advantage in our force, where the number of married men is yearly increasing, viz: Before being permitted to marry, a man must have served three years in the ranks, been of good character, and have £10 in the savings bank.

"I am of opinion that the time has come for further improving the status of the Infantry School Corps, with the view to securing complete uniformity of system, fostering '*esprit de corps*,' and placing the schools on a better footing—all this without, of necessity, increase of expenditure, viz: (a) by following the footsteps of the 'Regiment of Canadian Artillery,' and forming the several companies of the Infantry School Corps into the 'Regiment of Canadian Infantry,' (b) each school without altering its company organization, with a battalion staff, as at present, to be considered the nucleus of a *Battalion* in the 'Regiment of Canadian Infantry.'"

Lieut.-Col. d'Orsonnens has nothing out of the ordinary to report concerning B Company, I. S. C., and the school at St. John's, Q., beyond that a suitable rifle range has now been obtained on ten years' lease, and good progress having been made in musketry training.

Lieut.-Col. Otter recommends the issue of two or three Morris tubes to C School for the purpose of better exemplifying the instruction in musketry.

Lt.-Col. Smith reports merely the attendance at D School and the number of certificates granted.

The Stores Department.

The following are extracts from the report of Lieut.-Col. John Macpherson, Director of Stores:—

The militia clothing of all descriptions supplied under the existing system is considered, both in material and workmanship, quite equal to that at one time obtained from England. The supply for the past year was carefully inspected by the clothing inspector, and reported by him to be equal in all respects to the sealed patterns and the requirements of the service. Store supplies and necessaries required for the year for issue to the permanent corps of cavalry, artillery and infantry, were obtained as usual from Canadian contractors.

The clothing issues for the year ending the 31st December, 1890, were: Cloth and serge tunics, 8,247; Cloth and