

they are quite welcome to it so far as I am concerned. Field artillery will certainly see machine-guns out of it at all ranges."

Col. Markham, R.A., thought the question was one of transport. If machine-guns were to be used, it should be upon wheels, it should be in batteries. The organization of the batteries is another affair. It would be under the command of the general officer of the division. When an attack was ordered by the infantry, no doubt the machine-guns would be ordered to a certain position. They would get to that position far quicker on wheels than on mules. With regard to their being in the field by themselves without support, he could not conceive a battery of machine-guns being left without support, any more than a battery of breech-loading guns. He thought the great object was to get a valuable arm into the field, and he really thought that the wheels were the best.

The chairman (General Sir E. B. Hamley) thought there was no subject more worthy of discussion than the present, for the art of war has more and more become dependent on the inventions of science. "It is important to all nations, and more especially to ours, and for this reason—that we cannot pretend to compete in numbers of men with the formidable armies of continental powers; but, on the other hand, we are credited with being able to afford to buy expensive equipment with greater ease than they can. If, then, machine-guns can be made to take the efficiency of a certain proportion of men, I think that is a matter upon which the British government may congratulate itself. This is by no means the first time that this question has been discussed at this institution, but I think that hitherto the view has been taken that the machine-gun should be used on the side of defence; and it is perfectly evident that if a force in position can be aided by a number of these machine-guns, which will sweep the avenues of approach to the position, it so far possesses a great advantage. But now we have a fresh proposal, to enlist it on the side of the attack. Well, here again I think it is indisputable that, provided two forces otherwise equal are face to face, and the one that attacks can succeed in bringing up a line of machine-guns at such a distance as can bear effectively upon the enemy's position, an immense advantage will be gained in thus covering the otherwise very difficult attack." As regards Major Anderson's suggestion to attach a machine-gun to every company, to be carried on a mule, the first mule to be accompanied by another with the first supply of ammunition, Gen. Hamley considered that the whole question turned on that point. "I do not know whether any exact calculations have been made on this subject, but I find it stated, in a lecture given here by Lord Charles Beresford, that a Nordenfolt machine-gun can fire 1,000 rounds in a minute, and he also says—I do not know whether it is his own opinion, or whether he is quoting another—that the proper supply of ammunition for each gun should be 10,000 rounds. Now we must remember that the value of the machine-gun consists in its being able to pour an immense volume of bullets on a given space in a given time. If the estimate of 1,000 rounds per minute is correct, the whole 10,000 rounds would be fired away in ten minutes." On the subject of entrusting the machine-guns to the infantry, Gen. Hamley considered they were after all only taking the place of the infantry arm, and that they might be regarded as so many rifle barrels discharging rifle ammunition, and therefore might properly be entrusted to an infantry commander. "At any rate," he said in conclusion, "I dare say we are all agreed upon this, that the weapon is one of great value, and that it would be of great value to the side which should bring it into the field."—(Discussion from *U. Service Gazette*.)

Correspondence.

The Editor desires it distinctly understood that he does not hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

THE BENEFITS OF THE MILITARY SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of the *Canadian Militia Gazette*.

DEAR SIR,—Possibly my age and experience may be considered as sufficient reason for requesting the favor of a little space in the *GAZETTE*, with reference to some extracts from the *Victoria Warbler*, concerning the present schools of instruction. Living in the locality of one of these institutions since its formation has enabled me to observe many things connected with its working and management and provided me also with means of judging of the advantages and faults of the system which the *Warbler* finds fault with. From my previous experience of military matters, I may pass over the remarks from this journal bearing on red-tape and etiquette, as being unworthy of notice, as it is the natural tirade of some friend of the writer, who likely has been forbidden to appear at mess in his shirt-sleeves, or use the spittoon in the ante-room. But if you will allow me, I must at the same time warn you that the writer is not altogether wrong in his ideas, though he does descend to small things, from his ignorance of the true defects and degeneration that we should so jealously guard against. His idea of all cadets wearing one garb, and the extinction of rank is foolish, and he again displays the usual smallness of his kind, by the expression: "If an officer desires to put on airs by wearing his uniform, etc." It is the popular manner of abusing anything military, and it is to be regretted that this paper is not more enlightened. The defects of the old system were exactly what he wishes to revive. It is highly necessary that each one should get practical illustration of the duties of his grade. The *Victoria Warbler* again produces a painful sensation when it rehearses the old bridge story, which I have, with you Mr. Editor, heard recited in different parts of the globe. He says some other foolish things, but I can detect that

he is attempting to approach the truth, and at heart speaks for the good of the militia. Had I been dictating the lines in the paper above quoted, my first appeal to the authorities should be to preserve at whatever cost the standard of education at the schools, by ensuring the gazettement of the best and most efficient officers to the permanent corps, and banish political influence forever. Here is the whole danger to be avoided, and one that must certainly lead some day to the inefficiency we fear. Political appointments carry no guarantee of qualification with them, and officers so gazetted in course of time must succeed to the higher commands, which they never can fill as types of perfection, which is required in order to be superior to the militia at large. If they are not capable of acquitting themselves socially and intellectually as commandants, how can we expect our militia officers and men to seek knowledge and military discipline at the schools. We must not lose sight of the important fact that should be so deeply considered in making these appointments, that the permanent force are not only called upon to do duty as soldiers, but in conjunction with this important work, they are also to act as instructors and patterns to their fellows in the militia. For such institutions in England the pick of the army only are selected, and when we remember that even the poorest of that vast body from which the choice is made have all qualified at the establishments of military learning, we begin to see how inferior our own source of instruction must become. These remarks are only what I have heard from more than one of our present commandants on several occasions, and they are simply true to the letter. It was only the other day that I noticed one of your correspondents astray about the same arguments, and if I remember right he stated that with the exception of a very few all the officers of our permanent force owe their appointments, not to the fortunate circumstance of possessing a Royal Military College certificate, or of being the cream of the militia, but rather to the influence of some political relation or friend. This, Mr. Editor, is the ground for fault-finding, and had the *Victoria Warbler* taken these lines of attack he would have carried with him the support and sympathy of many an old soldier and well wisher of the Canadian militia. As to his argument against the provisional officers; why, I must admit he is quite correct, and even by glancing at the militia list we see that a number of the would-be instructors, the officers of the permanent corps themselves, are still unqualified, while others in the same corps, I have heard it whispered, supposed to hold necessary guarantees of knowledge in three respective branches, are actually without them, or at all events in possession of most imperfect and antiquated certificates, suitable, possibly, if there was no such a thing as a Royal Military College in existence.

GREY HAIRS.

Mess Room Yarns.

"That reminds me."

THE OLD CANNON AT QUEBEC.

The best part of Mr. Atkinson's narrative was his dramatic story of his visit to the citadel.

"An officer," said he, "detailed a man to show me around, and he took me everywhere.

"Noticing a small cannon, half hidden by the snow, as I was about to go, I said in fun: 'I guess I will take it away with me.'"

"Go look at the inscription on the breech," said the soldier, laughingly.

"I looked and read:

"Taken at the battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775."

"I saw the soldier had me. It stirred my blood and I wanted to make a fit reply. I read the inscription over again to gain time. Tears came to my eyes. 'Young man,' I said to him, 'you've got the cannon but we've got Bunker Hill.'"

The patriot sun of Maine turned red and actually cried again as he repeated the story.—*Leviston, Me., Journal*.

Regimental Notes.

We wish to publish information respecting all the doings of all corps. Will the officers interested, particularly at a distance, assist us by having news relating to their corps promptly forwarded?

Peterborough.—No. 6 company, 57th Batt., is drilling every Thursday evening in the old music hall, and is making good progress.

Ottawa.—Col. J. P. Macpherson repeated his lecture on field fortifications and hasty entrenchments, on Monday night. Many of the headquarters staff were present. Capt. Toller's paper was postponed for a fortnight.

Fredericton.—Corporal Thomas Fancutt, A. Co., I. S. C., has lately returned from a five month's attendance at the Signal Station on the Citadel Hill, Halifax, where he received first class certificates from Lt.-Col. E. D. C. O'Brien, R.E., for his attainments in military telegraphy and the signal service. While in Halifax he was attached to the royal engineers, and also received particular recommendation from Capt. H. E. Rawson, the Superintendent of Signals. Corpl. Fancutt will give instructions to the officers and men of the 71st York Batt. of infantry. He is the first man of the Canadian militia who has been attached to the Imperial troops for this purpose. Before leaving Halifax he gave instructions to the three Halifax militia battalions and received a very flattering testimonial from them when leaving for Fredericton.

St. John, N. B.—St. Valentine's day was most enthusiastically celebrated by the sergeants of the 62nd Fusiliers at the regimental club room, when a grand masquerade ball was given, which was one of the most successful of the kind ever given in St. John. Splendid music by the full band of the corps, pretty girls in gay fancy costumes, men in all varieties of dress, sergeants, officers, and privates, in bright scarlet, blending with the many decorations of the rooms, made up a scene to be remembered. There were about 200 dancers on the floor, besides many spectators, and dancing was kept up until a very late hour. A sumptuous supper was served in the non-commissioned officers' room at midnight, when masks were taken off, after which dancing was resumed with even greater zest than before the repast. Great credit is due to the sergeants of the 62nd for the way the entertainment was carried out, and while all worked hard and well, Sergeant-Major Conley, Staff-Sergeants Coleman and Blaine, and Sergeants Strang, Wilson, Rogers, Ewing, Patterson, Stanton and Appleby deserve special mention. Another dance of the same kind may be held on Easter Monday.

The I. S. C. dramatic club from Fredericton played "Never Too Late Too Mend" last week. The *Sun* says: "It is doubtful if an institute audience is often better pleased with themselves, and with the performers, than they were on this occasion."

Quebec.—The 8th Royal Rifles paraded at the drill shed Grande Allée on Tuesday evening, the 15th instant, for the commencement of annual drill. The men have been supplied with new uniforms and presented a splendid appearance. The brass and bugle bands and pioneers were in attendance, and at 9 p.m. the regiment paraded