

battalion headquarters. Fortunately for Canada she has numbers of enthusiastic men on her list of officers, else the volunteer movement would have fallen through long ago, and these should turn their energy into this new direction while the nights are long and the cold makes drill impracticable.

THERE never were mortals so unreasonable as the Canadian militia—they are always wanting something. The last want that has been discovered, and by a city corps too, of all things, is a want of trenching tools. Now in the name of common sense what would a city corps do with picks and shovels. Do they suppose for a moment that these will enable them to march past better at inspection or increase their aptitude for the manual? My correspondent says: "I have tried to start a class for shelter trench drill, but am met at the start by the want of tools. Now would it not be possible to issue a few sets of trenching tools, say six to each company of the city corps. The cost would not be very serious, and the benefit conferred on those corps wishing to learn the work would be very great. The combination tool served out to the Imperial army is as near perfection as possible, very light, handy, and cheap. The experiment is worth trying at all events. This winter I intend taking my class out with snow shovels and snowshoes to practise shelter trench and field firing, but would like the tools for the long summer evenings." It is quite plain that this iconoclast must be suppressed; it would be manifestly unsafe to leave him to work his own sweet will on his unoffending subordinates, and shatter all the traditions of the service at one blow to boot.

HAPPY thought!—Might not a little drill on snowshoes this winter, in the localities where the snow lies deep enough, be good fun, if nothing else. The boys are always ready for a moonlight tramp, and why not let it take the form of a military march out on snow shoes? It would teach a company to keep its dressing without touch or crowding to a flank, for the punishment of crowding would be prompt disorganization, and it would yet allow the execution of many movements that would be useful in the face of an enemy. It cannot be objected that marching on snow shoes would never be needed; no one can tell that, and we have a dim idea that Imperial troops once marched on snow shoes all the way from New Brunswick to Quebec; but even granting that it would never be required, the pleasure and exhilaration of the tramp remain, and every drill means an extra lesson on military discipline and obedience to orders. Try it next month, and write us a full account of how it succeeds.

Personals.

Lt.-Col. Houghton, D.A.G., Winnipeg, is back at his office again.

Lt. Currie, of the 90th, is taking a special course in the school of mounted infantry, Winnipeg.

Color-Sergeant Lethbridge, of the 90th, has been appointed orderly room sergeant, vice George Broughall.

General Sir Fred. Middleton, accompanied by his aide-de-camp, Captain Wise, has gone to Winnipeg on official duty.

Lt.-Col. Taylor, commandant of the mounted infantry school at Winnipeg, met with an accident recently that has given him a bad shaking up.

Lt.-Colonel Peck, who was placed on the retired list from the command of the 29th battalion in 1882, is dead, and was interred at Galt, Ont., recently, with military honors.

Major Andrew J. Armstong, who was last week gazetted to substantive rank in the N. B. Brigade of Garrison Artillery has been an officer of that corps since 1872. On the 19th June, 1873, he was gazetted as second lieutenant of No. 1 battery. Shortly afterwards Capt. King, the commander of No. 10 battery, now known as No. 4, died, and he was asked to accept the captaincy. With the consent of Capt. Kane of No. 1 battery and Lieut.-Col. Foster he accepted the command, and on August the 1st, 1873, his appointment was gazetted, so that for over 13

years he had been in the same command, and he claims that, while he was connected with it his battery carried off the lion's share of prizes for which the brigade competed. Under these circumstances it is pleasing to see his battery bearing such testimony to his popularity as is evidenced by the presentation chronicled in another column.

The Dress Regulations.

THE militia of Canada have for several years been sadly in want of a properly compiled set of dress regulations, for the guidance of officers in procuring uniform, and any irregularity in the dress of officers was always excused on the plea that the regulations were so vague that no one knew what to wear. Articles have appeared in this paper from time to time showing the necessity for a guide in the dress of our officers, but as it was understood that the matter was under consideration at headquarters, the different regiments patiently waited for a balm for all their troubles, in the general order relating to dress. In May last the long-looked-for regulations were published, but they have not, as it was hoped, thereby ended all queries and discussions regarding cut, style, trimming, buttons and such like, but only caused further questions and puzzled the brains of officers more than ever; the plain fact is the new regulations are a mistake, and fall far short of supplying the want so long felt in Canada; instead of detailing full particulars for every branch of the militia and each regiment of that branch, a great deal is still left to conjecture, while some of the paragraphs are so ambiguous, or so opposed to the reading of Imperial dress regulations in similar cases, that it is almost impossible for two officers of the same arm of the service to be dressed exactly alike. This is much to be regretted, for containing, as our militia does, many officers who cannot afford to obtain a new fit-out every year or two one should know exactly what to get, and whether the purchaser of a uniform or any part thereof is strictly regulation or not; further, the regulations should be so explicit that any inspecting officer or c. o. could know at once whether an officer is properly dressed, and all holding commissions should be compelled to furnish themselves with uniforms correct in even the minutest details.

In reviewing the general order of 1st May it is impossible in a short article to point out *all* the inaccuracies; but enough will be touched upon to show the fallacy of attempting to benefit by a study or following of the order, in fact even the proof reading appears to have been carelessly done, as many errors in spelling, etc., occur. The general instructions appear to have been copied word for word from the Imperial army dress regulations without regard to their adaptability to Canada, and the same may also be said of several other paragraphs, as will be shown later on. Under the heading winter greatcoats, these garments are detailed at length, with color of cloth and fur for certain branches, though why cavalry and engineers should wear grey cloth and fur the same as infantry is a puzzle; moreover the paragraph concludes by allowing any corps to wear what they like, after particulars have been specified, thereby cancelling the first part of the paragraph. It is also puzzling to read that badges of rank will be gold *for winter wear*; is it understood that other badges are worn on fur coats in summer? Buttons are described as "gilt" without any reference to pattern; and lace is stated to be "maple leaf pattern," while further on in the regulations lace is described as "staff pattern," "universal pattern," and in other cases left to discretion or fancy of regiments. Under the heading regimental staff there are many inaccuracies; medical officers are referred to army medical department for particulars of certain articles, and as very few officers have copies of the Imperial dress regulations in their possession, they will find it difficult to know whether they are right or wrong in obtaining uniform; the same may be said of paymasters, with the addition that the undress sword belt and pouch belt in the army are white, while in Canada this staff officer must wear black.

The uniform of the cavalry in Canada has long been thought too expensive, being the same as the 13th Hussars, and it was hoped when new dress regulations were issued that the expense of officers in this arm would be lightened; not so, however, for again the army regulations have been copied, though many important and necessary details have been omitted; for instance, the pouch ornaments are to be silver, while those of the 13th are gold, the undress sword belt and pouch belt are to be white and the sabetache black while the principal cavalry corps in Canada have been using buff leather for some years, and find it much better than anything else; the mess waistcoat is stated as "regimental pattern" instead of that used by 13th Hussars being described in full: a frock coat *only* for undress is authorized, whereas for the work our cavalry must do in camp a patrol jacket would be much more serviceable and less expensive, the regulations for horse furniture are confined to throat ornament, and valise, and nothing is laid down for regimental staff, while in the dragoons, horse furniture is described at length, and staff of the regiment is also mentioned.

In the regulations for the artillery the winter cap is described at