

class certificate from the Cavalry School of Instruction of H.M. 13th Hussars.

A very worthy and efficient N.C. officer, Quartermaster-Sergeant Colin McArthur, has been appointed lieutenant vice Tees, this has given much satisfaction to the members of No. 1 Troop Cavalry. By the recent regulations only two officers are allowed to a Troop of Cavalry, otherwise another excellent N.C. officer, Sergeant Porter, would have been promoted as cornet, (or rather as sub-lieutenant, the title of cornet being now obsolete in the regular army) his name having been sent in previous to the order alluded to was in force and he in consequence was unfortunately led to the expense of a cavalry officer's entire outfit, his comrades and friends it is rumoured are still hopeful that under the particular circumstances of his case the militia authorities may allow him to receive the rank first promised him.

Major Muir who was favorably known as a dashing and active cavalry officer during the Fenian raids, having retired in favor of Captain Tees, (being permitted to retain his present rank, with a view to future service) carries with him the respect and esteem of every officer, non-commissioned officer and Trooper of the Montreal Hussars.

The 1st or Prince of Wales Rifles will give their annual concert on Monday next, a very large attendance is expected,

X.

'A' AND 'B' BATTERIES, SCHOOLS OF GUNNERY.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—As the powers that be are at the present time taking such an interest in the defensive force of the country, exemplified by their placing the fortifications of Quebec and Kingston in a (much needed) state of repair, the establishment of a Military College the procuring of the services of a general officer to command the Militia, &c. &c. I thought it would be an opportune time to bring forward a few suggestions which have occurred to me, more with a view of getting the opinions of other and able writers than myself, than of advancing my own. Being an artilleryman I shall concern myself with what affects my own branch of the service, leaving to members of the other, and not less important branches the right to advance and discuss matters which affect them solely.

The only question that I shall consider in this letter, is probably one of primary importance to the Canadian artilleryman, viz. the establishment of "A" and "B" Batteries, Schools of Gunnery, the object by which they were organized, and the means at disposal for carrying out the same.

By the General Order of the 20th October 1871, Para. 1, I see that they were organized for the protection of the Forts, armaments, magazines, and warlike stores, handed, or about to be handed over, to the Do-

minion of Canada by the Imperial authorities. Para. 2 of the same General Order states, that it is further intended that these batteries, in addition to performing garrison duties, shall serve as practical schools of gunnery for the training of all ranks of the militia artillery, viz. —by instructing gunners and drivers, and affording officers and non-commissioned officers, opportunities of acquiring instruction in their several branches &c.

With regard to the duties laid down in Para. 1, no one who has visited Quebec or Kingston, can deny but that the duties devolving upon the officers and men of these battalions, have been well and efficiently performed, duties which under the Imperial regime required the services of double the number of artillerymen at each station, and when it is considered that the officers of these batteries, have in addition to their ordinary garrison duties to perform the part of instructors to the endless number of short course men and recruits who enter these schools, a task which is no light one, with hardly any prospect of promotion and upon a rate of pay which a respectable mechanic would turn his back upon in disgust, (a Lieutenant receives \$1.58 per diem) I think most of your readers will agree with me that their position is no sinecure and that they deserve more encouragement for the way that they have, and are still performing, the duties devolving upon them.

With regard to the objects stated in the second paragraph, I cannot admit that they have been as well performed, not, I admit, through any want of attention on the part of those holding authority in these schools who as before stated deserve great praise for what they have done and are doing, but simply from the want of the necessary equipment to carry out the same. As far as the Garrison Artillery is concerned, everything that is necessary to know regarding that branch, is taught, but what of the Field Battery men, are the eight horses which are allowed (to quote again the words of the Gen. Order) for the purpose of teaching, riding, driving, moving field guns (que. how many) sufficient for the purpose, certainly not; to give any fair idea of moving field guns, i.e., Field Battery manoeuvres, there should be at least fifty.

Now, what I suggest is this, that instead of the large establishment at present paid for each of these Batteries, they should be reduced so as to form at each station one field and one garrison battery, each to keep at its own particular work, that is, the garrison battery to teach garrison gun drills, exercises, and duties, and all officers and men of militia garrison batteries who are permitted to join for instruction be posted to it, and all militia field battery officers and men, to the field battery. The extra expense would not be a great deal, and would be money well spent in teaching the officers

and men of what is by far the most important, and judging from the reports of inspecting officers, by no means the least efficient portion of the Active Militia, their duties and the duty only which they require for their respective branches of the artillery service.

It is of little use a field batteryman learning heavy gun drills, repository exercises, &c., all he wants to know is how to handle well the particular description of gun he has in his battery, to be well versed in the ammunition and stores belonging to it, to ride and drive, and, if an officer, in an addition, how to handle the battery in the field, to learn which even were the means I propose placed at his disposal, would take all of the three months allowed him, and more than that provided his means permitted him to remain longer. (See note.)

Now, what I would suggest is this: let us take "B" Battery (Garrison) as an example. Its establishment is as follows:—

1 Captain,	yearly pay,	\$1,022 20
4 Lieutenants,	"	2,117 20
1 Asst. Surgeon,	"	838 00
1 Sergt. Major,	"	845 00
1 Laboratory foreman,	"	365 00
1 Ordnance Armorer,	"	365 00
1 Master Gunner,	"	885 00
6 Sergeants,	"	1,732 00
6 Corporals,	"	1,633 00
4 Bombardiers,	"	878 00
3 Trumpeters,	"	547 50
100 Gunners,	"	23,725 00
Adjutant, extra pay,	"	182 50
Qr. Mr. Sergt.	"	84 60
8 horses, forage for each at 30c. per diem,	"	850 00

Total, \$35,011 00

Reduce it to the following strength:—

1 Captain.
2 Lieutenants.
1 Sergt. Major.
1 Qr. Mr. Sergeant.
4 Sergeants.
4 Corporals.
4 Bombardiers.
2 Trumpeters.
60 Gunners.

Then organize a Field Battery of the following strength:—

1 Captain.
2 Lieutenants.
1 Sergt. Major.
1 Quar. Mr. Sergeant.
4 Sergeants.
4 Corporals.
4 Bombardiers.
2 Trumpeters.
80 Gunners and Drivers.
15 Horses.

To be armed with four 8-inch M.L.R. guns with one line of wagons, the horses to be distributed as follows: each sub-division eight, four in the gun, and four in the wagon; 23 three officers' horses, Sergt. Major 1, Quar. Master 1, Trumpeter 1; 3 No's 1, 3, and 4's, are ranking in all 45; and should mares be required, (I don't consider them at all necessary, they will require 4 more.)

The present staff of the Battery, viz.: Commandant, Assistant Surgeon, Laboratory Foreman, Ordnance Armorer and Master Gunner, would form the Staff for both Batteries. The annual pay of both Batteries of the strength as suggested by me would be about:

\$18,500 25
Deduct the pay of 1, 35,011 00
"B" Battery.
\$16,510 75 Balance.

An increase which the country would find amply repaid to it, by the increased efficiency of the schools. The question of increased expenditure on clothing and rations for two extra non-commissioned officers and men I have left out as it is a trifling comparison to the pay, and this latter is already long enough. Hoping, Mr. Editor, you will pardon my trespassing on so much of your space, and that this letter will have the effect of provoking discussion in your columns, on this important subject, I subscribe myself, as of old, Yours sincerely,

10th Nov., 1874.

SHIRAZEL.

* NOTE.—The pay of officers going through a course of instruction at the S.C. is \$1 per diem.

MARRIED.

At Ottawa, on the 11th inst., at the Eastern Methodist Church, by the Rev. J. W. Hunter, Mr. Guilford Heber Fawcett, of the Customs Department, to Anna Maria, daughter of Mr. Dawson Kerr, publisher of the Vol. Review.